

Tiger on course; Cub in jungle

Newark teachers seek justice in fraud implication

A tribute to Arthur Flecher

Volume 13, Number 32

LEADERS OF FOUR DENOMINATIONS CONFESS TO SIN OF RACISM

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The bishops of the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches in South Carolina issued a statement Friday confessing to the sin of racism and asking for forgiveness.

The statement, signed after a two-day conference on racism, asks Christ to "help us in our struggles to overcome the sin of racism, the powerful prejudice which pits one race against the other to the damage of all."

The bishops also announced plans to make a public confession at a service in Greenville on May 11.

"This is a very important step," said Rev. Joe Brown Campbell, the general secretary of the National Council of Churches. "It's a very local reexamination of the church's role in the history and the greatest number of church buildings."

At least 17 black churches have been burned in South Carolina since 1991.

The bishops, representing 466,000 church members, said if they deserve to be called Christians, they must "embrace each other totally and in the firm belief in one Lord, one baptist, one human family with equal liberty and justice for all."

They also said "no dogmas, no creeds, no Christian denominations divide us on these beliefs."

The statement was signed by Bishop David A. Donges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bishop Dorsey F. Henderson Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Bishop Lawrence M. Murphy of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Edward Salmon Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and Bishop David Thompson of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston.

Topics at the two-day conference included the small number of black in local and statewide church leadership positions and the past practice of designating near-pew balconies for black worshippers.

Two years ago the nation's largest Protestant denomination, the 15.6 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, took the same step on a nationwide basis, approving a historic statement asking forgiveness for racism. The denomination was created in 1845 in a split between supporters and opponents of slavery, and was silent on or actively opposed civil rights for most of its history.

ESSEX COUNTY GUARD ARRESTED ON DRUG SMUGGLING CHARGE

NEWARK (AP) — An Essex County jail guard was arrested Friday for allegedly trying to smuggle drugs into the facility, authorities said.

Officer Mark Davis faces charges including official misconduct for carrying contraband, possession of controlled substances, and possession with intent to distribute, said Ray Weisz, a spokesman for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

Davis, 24, pleaded innocent to the charges at his arraignment Friday afternoon. He was being held at the jail on a \$30,000 personal recognizance bond, Weisz said.

An investigation began six weeks ago after inmates alleged that Davis would bring drugs into the jail for a fee. When he was arrested, authorities found three wrapped packets they believed contained marijuana.

Davis has been a corrections officer since October 1994. He was suspended without pay Friday. He faces a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted on all charges.

HAS OPRAH RUN OUT OF TOPICS?

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey is wondering out loud how long her show will go on.

Winfrey, one of the most powerful media figures, is to decide this year whether to continue her show—the highest-rated daytime talk show in television history—into the next century.

"It gets harder every day," Winfrey said in an interview published last week in the Daily News. "When you do it for 12 years, you've covered every topic."

Winfrey said she would tape 200 more shows by spring 1998 but wasn't sure if the world would another 200 shows, which would take her through the year 2000. "Do we go to 2000, which really means, do we have 400 more shows?" she asked. "Do we really have 400 more ways to speak to the country?"

King World has reportedly been in discussions with Roseanne about making her host of a five-day-a-week talk show.

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Inside this issue

CITY NEWS

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MAY 21 - MAY 27, 1997

Justice Department investigates police beating of 'Freaknik' motorist

ATLANTA — United States Justice Department officials assured the Southern Christian Leadership Conference May ninth that a "full investigation" is currently underway in the videotaped April 20 police beating of a motorist during "Freaknik."

The incident, which is under internal investigation by Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harvard, apparently involved as many as five police

officers pummeling, manhandling and striking with a night stick motorist Timmy Sinclair of Atlanta, whom they insist ran a roadblock and struck an officer before the video recording began. The video, which lasted only a few seconds, did not show Sinclair striking back.

Dept. Assistant Attorney Gen. Jessica Ginsberg of the Criminal section of Civil Rights Division is

Atlanta region told SCLC General Counsel Roxanne Gregory May ninth that the FBI is currently conducting a "full investigation" of the incident and expects to release a preliminary report in 30 to 60 days. Then, based on the findings of the report, the Justice Department will decide whether any "prosecutable crimes" may have taken place in violation of Sinclair's civil rights. Ginsberg said, Ginsberg's

statement indicates the case, which Harvard said at a May first press conference was the subject of a "preliminary inquiry" by the FBI, has reached a new level.

SCLC President Joseph E. Lowry, who voiced "grave concern" May 1st that Atlanta was not prepared for a Rodney King like incident, said Friday that "We believe that Mr. Sinclair is entitled to an investigation

independent of the one being conducted by the Atlanta Police Department.

Rep. Vincent, Mayor Bill Campbell's spokesperson, said Chief Harvard had hoped his internal investigation would be finished by then but blamed the delay on WSB-TV, which he said had not released a copy of the

see FREAKNIK/page 3

COURT FLUNKS GOV'S PLANS

Supreme Court shoots down school funding plans



The 5-1 State Supreme Court ruling against Governor Whitman's new education standards was hoped for by these children participating in a March rally in Trenton on the day opening arguments began.

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

In an historic decision that stirred opposing sides, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled Wednesday, May 14, against Governor Christie Whitman's School Funding Law, citing it as "unconstitutional."

The law, which Whitman signed on December 20th of last year, was purportedly designed to create a system of curriculum standards that would be applied in public schools across the state.

Whitman's plan was to improve urban schools based on a core curriculum instead of on the funds they receive from the state. Her plan received opposition from the Association for Children of New Jersey, the League of Women Voters, the Black Ministers Council, the City of Plain-

field, the Newark Teacher's Union, the Education Law Center and several other associations and school boards.

field could only be accomplished with more money being promptly given to inner city schools.

At a March hearing on the new law, also held before the Supreme Court, David Sciarra, director of the Education Law Center, took the stand that the curriculum standards alone will not guarantee equal educational opportunities for poor students.

In the May 14th ruling, the court stated that the state's Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Accountability Act (CEIFA) may someday result in the improvement of the educational opportunity available to all New Jersey public school students. We conclude, however, that the new act is incapable of assuring that there will be educational opportunity for children in the special needs districts for any time in the foreseeable future." The court additionally expressed that this

"We are not going to revisit the funding for the other school districts," Whitman said. "We are not going to reallocate money away from middle class districts, as it were, in order to achieve the court's decision."

The Governor's case was argued

before the Supreme Court by the Attorney General's office. According to Rita Malley, a spokesperson for the Attorney General, the state will be required to seek an additional \$220 million for these schools. "We are disappointed with the ruling," Malley told City News. "The argument was really over parity and money. The court had no problem with the core curriculum standards." Whitman's lawsuit initially outlined \$138 million for the 28 districts.

In addition to boosting funding, the court addressed other concerns. It stated that the CEIFA failed to address the overwhelming problem of unsafe, overcrowded and dilapidated schools. The court stressed the point by citing the forty-nine New Jersey public schools that are one hundred years old or older. The ruling also pointed out the lack of libraries and media centers in most "special needs" schools, leaving those students with an unfair playing field when it comes to technology, science and art.

As a result, the state is now required to review facilities in the poorest districts and make recommendations on how improvements can be made. The state must also turn in a comprehensive study of the educational needs of these districts and devise a plan (including finances) to meet those needs.

Joseph Del Grosso, President of the Newark Teacher's Union, agrees whole heartedly with the court's decision. In a statement issued to the press, Del Grosso congratulated and commended members of the Newark Teacher's Union for being advocates for the Newark's students. Union members sponsored rallies and testified at hearings in opposition to the bill.

In a press issued statement, Sciarra said, "This decision represents the beginning of a process to fundamentally reform the delivery of public education in our urban schools... We cannot afford yet another round of flawed funding mechanisms, inadequately developed programs, and ineffective policies."

Dr. Edward Vermer, President of the Newark "North Jersey Committee of Black Church Men, said, "We're overjoyed. This is a momentous decision. The court acted fairly in reviewing the case. The administration's

See WHITMAN FLUNKS/page 10

Green to include Plainfield, Neptune as special districts in school funding

PLAINFIELD — Assemblyman Jerry Green on Thursday proposed legislation that would amend the definition of "Abbott district" in the new school funding law to include the school districts of Plainfield and Neptune.

The state Supreme Court last week declared the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA) unconstitutional as it relates to "Abbott districts." The court ordered the state

to provide for parity between the wealthiest and poorest districts in New Jersey between 1997 and 1999.

Plainfield received a special designation in prior school funding legislation because it is a low-income school district in a high-skill Green, unfortunately, the Governor's court ruling proposed dropped Plainfield from the list of "special needs" districts. If enacted, my measures would prevent the children of Plainfield from falling through the cracks as the state contin-

ues its effort to provide equal educational opportunities."

In enacting the Quality Education Act (QEA) of 1990, the Legislature added Plainfield and Neptune to the list of "special needs" districts of the state. However, the Supreme Court's ruling includes only the 28 districts specifically identified in the original Abbott vs. Burke case.

"Legislation will give Plainfield access to the equalization funds ordered in yesterday's court decision," said

Green. "We need to make sure that Plainfield and Neptune are restored to special needs' status."

The legislation is supported by Assemblyman Robert T. Smith, who is the author of the measure, and Senator John Lynch.

Green explained that according to the Education Law Center, Plainfield spends approximately 85% of the wealthier district average. To achieve 100% parity, Plainfield would receive approximately \$8 million more.

Milan, a city councilman, says he has a three-part plan for rebuilding the economic development of the city. Part one, according to Milan, involves stabilizing business with a concentration on helping small businesses in Camden expand, and with making loans available to them. Part two focuses on building industrial development parks, and in bringing in corporations to back office operations. The third part of Milan's economic revitalization deals at the tourism level, one of the city's prime tourist locations.

"Plan to give a shot in the arm to economic development in Camden and to create jobs," Milan said in an interview with City News. As the city's first Hispanic mayor, he plans to de-

see MILAN WINS/page 10

Community Calendar

PEOPLE

Weekly Horoscope

EVERY MONDAY

NEWARK—Employment Clinic at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-3395.

EVERY TUESDAY

NEWARK—Tuesday & S. Phillip's Cathedral Businessperson's Midday Series. For more information, call 201-622-3505.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—Effective Parenting Skills Training at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1895.

EVERY SATURDAY

PLAINFIELD—Indoor Flea Market. Downtown Area. For more information, call 908-989-2663.

EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

NEWARK—Free Health services by the city Dept. of Health and Human Services. For more information, call 201-733-7600.

EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—"Getting Started with the Computer" at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1899.

EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—"Getting Started with the Computer" at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1899.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

NEWARK—Municipal Council meeting at City Hall. For more information, call 201-733-3844.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

ELIZABETH—Crafts and stories for 3-5 year olds at the Library. For more information, call 908-353-4820.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

PLAINFIELD—Science & Math Expo at Plainfield High School. For more information, call 908-576-5800.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

HOLMDALE—Decoration Day Celebration at historic Longstreet Farm. For more information, call 908-242-4000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

NEWARK—"Getting Started with the Computer" at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1899.

MOUNTAIN INSIDE—Fourth Annual Breakfast Meeting of Union County Alliance, at L'Affaire. For more information, call 908-352-2944.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

ELIZABETH—Crafts and stories for 3-5 year olds at the Library. For more information, call 908-353-4820.

NEWARK—Board of Adjustment meeting at City Hall. For more information, call 201-733-6333.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

GLEN RIDGE—Regional Technical Assistance Institute for the New Jersey Arts in Goals 2000 at Glen Ridge Middle School. For more information, call 1-800-2ART399.

NEWARK—17th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser sponsored by the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark at the Airport Marriott. For more information, call 201-973-4020.

PLAINFIELD—12th Annual Plainfield Antique & Custom Car Show at Park Madison. For more information, call 908-752-2431.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

PISCATAWAY—Walk for Community Health at the Firehouse Park. For more information, call 908-224-3700.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

LAWRENCEVILLE—Regional Technical Assistance Institute for the New Jersey Arts in Goals 2000 at Lawrence High School. For more information, call 1-800-2ART399.

SOMERVILLE—25th Annual Golf Outing at the Raritan Valley Country Club. For more information, call 908-725-1552.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

WEST ORANGE—New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NJSCIS) will sponsor its Seventh Annual Spinal Cord Injury Retreat. At the Kessler Conference Center, at the Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation. For more information, call 201-243-6800.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

NORTH BRUNSWICK—Tech@RRLS, a hands-on fun day at DeVry Institute, sponsored by the International Women Day Celebration. For more information, call 908-756-3938.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

PLAINFIELD—Science & Math Expo at Plainfield High School. For more information, call 908-576-5800.

NEWARK—"Getting Started with the Computer" at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1899.

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100 South Lexington Avenue

NEWARK:

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LONG BRANCH:

169 Broadway

MADISON:

1106 Madison Avenue

MONMOUTH & MORRIS:

1106 Broad Street

MILLBURN:

201 Millburn Avenue

SPRINGFIELD:

Highway and Union Avenue

NAVINS:

Highway and Valley Drive

PLAINFIELD:

100 Washington Avenue

SHORT HILLS:

100 Washington Avenue

THE EAST COAST:

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SPRINGFIELD:

173 Morris Avenue

Montclair and Morris Avenue

SPRINGFIELD:

Highway and Union Avenue

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NEW STUDY FOCUSES ON HIGH RISK STUDENTS

Going to school, being on time and doing one's course work can make academic success more attainable for those students who are considered at risk for not completing high school even if other negative influences exist, say researchers. This finding is examined in a new study of academic achievement of minority students who are at high risk for dropping out of school. The report appears in the April issue of *American Psychological Association's (APA) Journal of Applied Psychology*. "We found that not all minority students who were at risk for school problems because of being from a low income home or living with one parent, drop out of school or even suffer poor performance in school," said Dr. Jeremy D. Finn, Ph.D., the lead researcher and author of the study. "It seems that being involved in school outweighs other factors that might impede an at-risk student. The resilient student got good grades throughout high school, scored reasonably well on achievement tests, and did not let any of their classmates independent of their family background or their own levels of esteem or beliefs about who is responsible for their success or failures." The study included 1,803 African-American and Hispanic students from Grades 8 through Grade 12.

SURVEY COMPARES AFRICAN-AMERICAN TV MOMS WITH REAL-LIFE MOTHERS

The feisty, successful and endearing Claire Huxtable from "The Cosby Show" tops the charts as the model TV mom, but she pales in comparison to those in real-life, according to a Mother's Day survey of 492 African Americans by Mahogany greeting cards. In a landslide win, Claire Huxtable was chosen by 50 percent of African Americans as TV's ideal mom while other fictional characters such as Florida Evans from "Good Times" and Harriet Winslow from "Family Matters" came in at 16.6 percent and 13.1 percent respectively. Although Mrs. Huxtable was identified as the model TV mom, 50.1 percent of respondents consider their mothers even more ideal than the fictional lawyer and other African-American mothers portrayed on TV.

AFRICA URGED TO BE WARY OF HIV TRIALS

Harare, Zimbabwe (PANA)—The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, Graham Hill, has called on African states to be united in rejecting AIDS clinical trials based on skin color. In a keynote address to the fifth congress of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists, Hill said there has to be justification why a particular country is used for trials. "If you are going to do international equality and justification given as to why a country becomes a center for such HIV/AIDS trials," he said. Trials that only involved developing countries and none of the industrialized countries should be treated with caution, and their rationale fully justified before implementation, he said. "Africa should unite in rejecting, in the strongest terms, trials that are based on the principle of color, for in fact they do not seek knowledge, but seek to perpetuate the inequality of treatment, and proof of inferior racial superiority," he said. Hill insisted. "Glandular research, un informed consent, over-generalizations, useless drugs and 'quacks' have become the order of the day, he continued. "The old problem of Africa being the dumping ground of inferior quality goods and products once again rears its ugly head as most western-based institutions, pharmaceuticals, and individuals expose our people to research methods they don't even carry out in their own backyards," said Hill. "And, because of our desperate situation in terms of inadequate medical facilities and technology we have often been forced to settle for sub-standard HIV/AIDS diagnostic equipment and materials that do not give us accurate results, and to enter into research collaborations whose intentions are dubious, and not necessarily honorable," Hill concluded.

Apartheid Police hit squad commander convicted of murder

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — The self-confessed commander of an apartheid government hit-squad was convicted Thursday of murdering a human-rights lawyer.

Dirk Coetzee, whose revision at his work for the white-minority government later led him to join the anti-apartheid struggle in exile, was found guilty in the 1981 killing of Griffiths Mxenge.

Two former security policemen were also convicted on the charges in the Durban High Court.

Mxenge was a member of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, which was outlawed at the time. He was found outside his home near Durban, stabbed 40 times and left without a shirt.

Coetzee, 51, has applied for amnesty for this and other crimes to the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating abuses from both sides during the apartheid era. It has the power to grant amnesty if the perpetrators of a crime make a full confession and can demonstrate the crime was politically motivated.

Coetzee's saga began as a member and later commander of a special police group known as the Vlakplaas unit in the 1970s and 1980s which

murdered ANC activists.

He told the Truth Commission that his strict Afrikaners and religious upbringing helped him rationalize the murders and other crimes he committed to defend apartheid.

In 1989, he fled to join the ANC in exile after telling newspapers about Vlakplaas.

He returned in 1993 to work for the ANC and was a witness at the trial

of former police Col. Eugene de Kock, the highest ranking police official to be convicted of apartheid-era crimes.

He confessed to planning the murder of Mxenge, who Coetzee said had become a thorn in the side of security police.

"I don't expect (the family) to forgive me. I hope this will be an era of my life I can turn my back on and walk out," he said.

Motorist beaten at 'Freaknik'

Continued from page 1

videotape of the incident, which it purchased from a "Freaknik" participant who witnessed part of the incident. Vincent said Harvard would take several days to analyze the tape before commenting and making any decisions regarding status of the officers involved.

Sinclair and his attorney insist that he was trying to get to the drug store to buy medicine for his sick daughter, who was in the car, along with his wife, when the incident occurred. Although his driver's license showed a Brooklyn address, Sinclair says he was given permission to get through the roadblock by one of the officers and detained by another, despite having an insurance card that verified that he lived in the neighborhood. Police say Sinclair, who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest issued in another part of the state, struck the first blows, cursed the officers and tried to run them over. The defendant, who is charged with aggravated assault and two counts of obstructing an officer, says he did not resist the officers, but did not strike them.

Sweet 'N Low establishes scholarship at New York University

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Sweet 'N Low® brand sugar substitute announces the establishment of the Sweet 'N Low® Nutrition Scholarship at New York University.

The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a minority student from a group under-represented at the University currently pursuing a degree in the field of Nutrition and Food Studies, and who demonstrates a strong commitment to the African-American community.

The scholarship, which will commence in the Fall semester, is part of Sweet 'N Low's continuing commitment to educating consumers about the risks for developing diet-related chronic diseases, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer or diabetes.

For example, Type II diabetes (non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, NIDDM), or adult-onset diabetes, is the fourth leading cause of chronic-disease death among African-Americans. "According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 2.6 million African-Americans have diabetes and do not even know it," said Marvin E. Eisenstadt, president of Sweet 'N Low. "The establishment of the scholarship at NYU will help us to inform African-Americans about their increased risk for developing this and other diet-related diseases."

All eligible students, including undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students currently enrolled or entering the School of Education's Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, will be considered for the award. The recipient will be selected by a faculty committee. For more information call 212-998-5580.

To the 80 million of you who volunteered time and money last year, thanks for all you've given. Imagine what more could do. Call 1-800-55-GIVE 5. It's what in the world you can do.



Farrakhan outlines peace plan for rappers

CHICAGO (AP)—Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has released preliminary details of a plan to end violent rivalries between rap music performers.

Farrakhan, a number of rappers, some representatives of the recording industry and members of the clergy met at a South Side restaurant Wednesday to figure out what he called the Second National Hip-Hop and Rap Summit. The first summit was held April 3.

The summits were prompted by the recent unsolved slayings of rappers Tupac Shakur and The Notori-

ous B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, and by the longstanding rivalry between performers of East Coast and West Coast rap.

"There has been no advancement in history that has come without the shedding of blood," Farrakhan said. He went on to say that more than enough blood has been shed—the time for peace has come.

Farrakhan said the rappers who attended the summits plan a joint "Hip Hop & Rap Peace" album to be released on Oct. 16, the second anniversary

of the Million Man March he led in Washington.

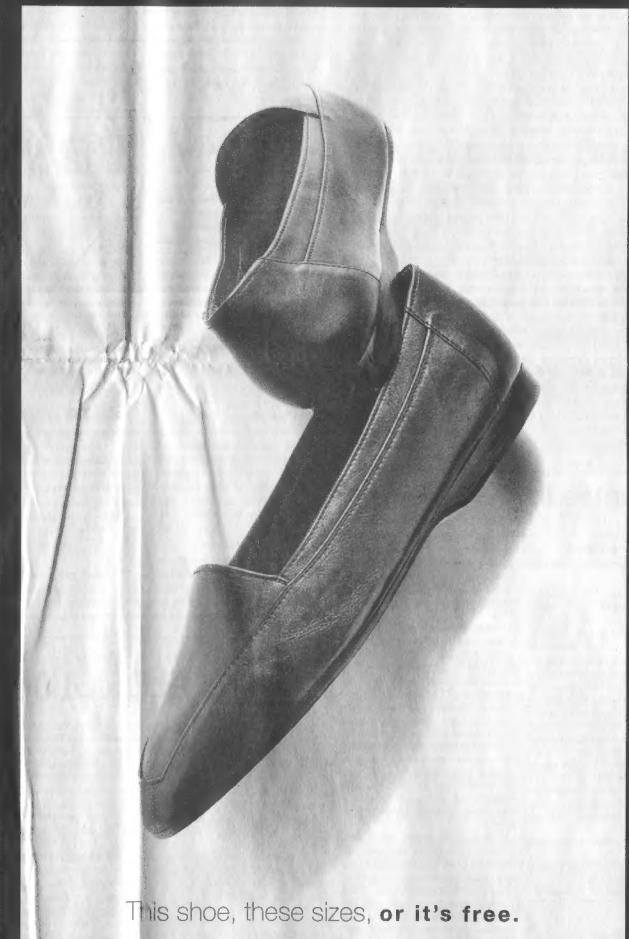
He also said he hopes to coordinate a National Peace Tour of rap musicians to begin some time this

fall.

At the news conference to announce the plans, Farrakhan was joined by rappers Ice Cube, Doug E. Fresh, and the Boo Yaa Tribe.

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FIREMAN CARD SHOW EXCITES PLAINFIELDS YOUTH

Elementary students of Plainfield can have fun with the Plainfield Fire Division trading card challenge. Students simply have to be the first elementary school student to collect at least one of each of the trading cards shown on the display poster located in your school and to be the winner. Relatives of Plainfield firefighters are ineligible. The winner of the trading card challenge will be presented with a brand new bicycle. Students should check the poster in their school, then simply ask the firefighter for his trading card when they see him around town. Only one prize will be awarded and the decision of the judges is final. For more information contact Fire Inspector Fletcher at fire headquarters (908) 753-3446.

STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN VILLAGE

NEWARK, N.J.—West Kinney Alternative High School students will share their interpretation of "It Takes An Entire Village To Raise A Child" with parents, school staff and city officials during a program which will highlight the accomplishments of students and teachers at the school. The program, which culminates a year of activity, will be held Friday, May 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students representing grades nine to 12 will present a stage production which they wrote and developed around the "Entire Village" theme. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the students will unveil a seven-foot high hut, decorated with brightly colored murals painted by the students. The hut is located in the school's atrium and was designed to symbolize the theme of unity and cooperation that exists between students and teachers. The students were assisted by Peter Fisher, a teacher and artist.

Project coordinator Deborah Mitchell De-Berry said this program marks the seventh year student council members have selected a theme to guide their classroom projects. "This year we selected the African proverb, 'It Takes An Entire Village To Raise A Child,'" because it reflects the responsibility and cooperation required of the government, businesses, the Newark Public Schools and the community to ensure the success of our children," De-Berry said.

Among the invited guests expected to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Mayor Sharpe James, Council President Donald Bradley, Council Members At-Large Mildred Crump, Gayle Chaney, Harold Tucker and George Branch. West Kinney Alternative High School is dedicated to educating at risk and disadvantaged students in the city of Newark. The school is located at 301 West Kinney Street, Newark, N.J.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY D. COOPER

SPECIAL THEMED SCHOOL TO BE DEDICATED TO RON BROWN

The Plainfield Public Schools will dedicate a new middle school of choice to the late U.S. commerce secretary, Ronald H. Brown. Mr. Brown's son, and members of the family will attend the dedication and participate in a tribute to the late commerce secretary. The new themed school will be called the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues. The dedication will be Thursday, May 29, 1997 at 6 p.m. at the Maxson Middle School Auditorium, 920 E. Seventh Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

The Plainfield school district will open three themed middle schools of choice in September 1997 at the start of the new school year. The schools will be housed within the district's two existing middle schools. They will give parents and children a choice in the educational program available to them. By September 1998, the entire middle school program in Plainfield will be organized into a 6th through 8th grade system of schools within schools.

Newark teachers seek justice in fraud implication

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

A federal lawsuit has been filed by twenty Newark teachers and school employees who have been implicated, but not yet charged, in a \$3.5 million dollar insurance fraud orchestrated by Ridgewood psychologist Carl Lichman. Lichman, who pled guilty to billing 36 insurance carriers and benefit plans for psychotherapy sessions that never took place, has been

ordered to make restitution and is currently serving a 5 1/2 year prison sentence.

Of the 130 educators, school board and non-instructional employees in the nine districts who have been implicated, Newark school district employees are the only individuals who have been suspended from their jobs without pay. According to reports, 200 conspirators in total reported in the profits. Nearly fifty Newark educators and school employees, in all, were suspended from their positions.

The employee's suit, filed March 21, claims the suspensions were based on allegations and discriminations not on merit and are racially biased. Plaintiffs named in the suit were the Newark School District, Superintendent Beverly Hall, a service employee union local and the Newark Teacher's Union.

"The suspensions lack educational," says Eulaug Butler, an educational media specialist at the Harold Wilson Middle School, who is one of the twenty employees who have filed

a federal lawsuit. "Superintendent Beverly Hall should have called us for a consult. Rather than listen to us, the district simply past judgment. They should have looked at what the other districts were doing."

Volunteers and Sue Brown plant flowers in Park Madison's park to help in the beautification Plainfields

district has also filed tenure charges with the State Education Commissioner for their dismissal. Miranda told City News.

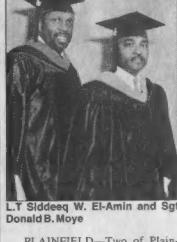
Butler says there were three sets of suspensions. The employees who were suspended from their positions, held last October, were given two weeks pay and their names were printed in the Star Ledger. The second set of suspensions took place in November, with employees being suspended again.

SEE NEWARKS TEACHERS SEEK JUSTICE/ PAGE 10



Volunteers and Sue Brown plant flowers in Park Madison's park to help in the beautification Plainfields

Two of Plainfield's finest earn graduate degrees



L.T. Siddique, W. El-Amin and Sgt. Donald B. Moye

PLAINFIELD—Two of Plainfield Police Division's supervisors will receive their graduate degrees one day apart this month. L.T. Siddique, W. El-Amin and Sgt. Donald B. Moye will each graduate, respectively, from Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, New Jersey on May 22, and 23, 1997. El-Amin will receive his Masters of Public Administration and Moye will receive his Masters of Science Management. This event will add to the many things both have in common.

L.T. Siddique enrolled in the accredited Rutgers Executive MPA Program tailored especially to meet the needs of selected, working leaders. The program provides familiarity with complex skills, both traditional and nontraditional, necessary to prepare a seasoned manager for executive leadership. State and municipal employees attend classes Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and a week's residency during the summers. The program is completed in two years. Sgt. Moye enrolled in the NJIT Executive Program in the School of Management. This is an accredited 14-month program designed to meet the needs of executives and their employees. They have designed it to prepare and develop our

future business leaders to meet the needs and issues of tomorrow's technology-driven, global business environment.

Both El-Amin and Moye did their undergraduate work at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with El-Amin graduating in 1968 and Moye in 1976. Both have worked in education. El-Amin taught at the Ocean City High School and Moye taught at Hubbard Middle School in Plainfield. El-Amin continued in education working in the EOF Program at Rutgers from 1971 to 1975 and later as Executive Director for the New Jersey Black Social Workers Association. Sgt. Moye worked in Plainfield City Hall's Budget Division from 1979 to 1980. Both careers joined on September 23, 1980 started their police in the City Hall Rotunda when they were both sworn in as Plainfield Police Officers by Mayor Paul J. O'Keefe. From there he recruited the Plainfield Police Division with El-Amin and Moye in 1980 and on to six years remain today.

Since joining the Police Division, both have experienced similar degrees of growth together. They assigned both El-Amin and Moye to the Criminal Investigation Bureau in 1982. El-Amin receiving the Gold Detective Badge in 1983 and Moye in 1984. Mayor Rick Taylor promoted El-Amin to the Rank of Sergeant January 1989 and they promoted Moye in April 1993. Mayor Mark Fuhr in May 1993 appointed El-Amin to the rank of Captain Affairs & Safety for Plainfield and he served in that capacity until returning to the Police Division with a promotion to the Rank of Lieutenant on October 26, 1995. Moye is currently on the promotional list for Lieutenant.

Both have worked together as Detectives in the General Assignment Section and in the Youth Section as Supervisors. Both have served as President of the Union County Juvenile Officers Association. El-Amin from 1990 to 1992 and Moye from 1996 to the present. Moye's term expires June 1998.

Bond sales completed Plainfield

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education went to the bond market on April 29 through the Union County Improvement Authority to raise \$33.9 million for capital improvements. Last October the authority approved a referendum to raise the funds to renovate, upgrade and improve facilities in the school district.

The Improvement Authority was able to price the bonds quickly to take advantage of the first bond market rally of significance since interest rates were increased last month," said Gary Ottman, business manager for the district and secretary of the Plainfield Board of Education.

Plainfield received four attractive bids, Ottman said. The bid went to Financial Guaranty Finance Company (FGIC). The bonds were sold at a premium so that the investor will pay more than the face value of the bond. As a result, Plainfield was able to raise the entire \$33.9

million plus \$53,631.20 premiums.

"The premiums will be used to pay the first interest payment on the bonds. Also, the Board of Education will have no ongoing costs because it will be able to use the premium to pay for these expenses," Ottman said.

Renovations and improvements will begin this summer in three elementary schools—Cook, Jefferson and Woodland.

The renovations will include the two middle schools—Hubbard and Maxson Schools—which will be done in two phases, starting this summer and completed in 1998. Beginning in September, the two middle schools will be closed. They include the CASH School for Careers in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities; the PATCHES School for the performing arts and the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues.

The renovations will be completed by the fall of 1999. The new school will be open for the 2000-2001 school year.

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Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

NEWARK—Business Breakfast Series and Monthly Meeting sponsored by Partners in Education & Quality, Inc. At the Newark Club. For more information, call 201-242-6237.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Millennial Fever," sponsored by the Direct Marketing Association. For more information, call 212-768-7277, ext. 1884.

BRIDGEWATER—Forum, "Recover Those Lost Recipients!" at Jack O'Connor Quality Beef & Seafood Restaurant. For more information, call 908-704-0888.

NEWARK—US Small Business Administration Annual Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Regional Business Partnership at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel. For more information, call 201-242-6237.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

JERSEY CITY—Seminar for Financial and Technical Assistance for Small Business. For more information, call 908-714-2107.

NEW YORK—Marketing & Business Expo '97. For more information, call 212-522-7632.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

BASKING RIDGE—Somerset Culinary Invitational at the Ode Mill Inn. For more information, call 908-725-1562.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NEPTUNE—RIBP Small Business Golf Outing at the Jumping Brook Country Club. For more information, call 201-242-6237, ext. 222.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

NEW YORK—Annual Forum, "Working Partnerships Entering the 21st Century: The Small Contractor and the Workforce," sponsored by the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors. At the Marriott World Trade Center. For more information, call 212-435-6185.

Statisticians back U.S. Government Census sampling plan

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Statisticians and sociologists, American Indians and Latinos, blacks and Asians gathered outside Congress Tuesday to defend the U.S. government's plan for 2000 census.

The plan to use statistical sampling to account for people who are not available to count has been attacked by conservatives in Congress, who would prefer an old-fashioned head count.

But even though no census has

ever counted everyone, conservatives are pressuring the bureau to stick with traditional methods of mail and personal visits.

"It's unfortunate that, at a time when we have the most sophisticated means of counting ... we may be denied that opportunity," said Rep. Xavier Becerra, a Democrat, at a news conference.

The census plan including sampling was developed by the National Academy of Sciences in an effort to improve on the 1990 count, which missed 1.6 percent of the population, far worse than the 1 percent not counted a decade earlier. It is also expected to save money, compared with trying to contact everyone in the country.

But even though no census has

ever counted everyone, conservatives are pressuring the bureau to stick with traditional methods of mail and personal visits.

"We must physically count each and every American," insisted the letter to Census Director Martha Farnsworth Riche from House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Majority Leader Dick Armey, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles, all Republicans.

"Sampling in the census is necessary to overcome the persistent undercount of poor and minority communities, and to ensure a fair and accurate outcome," said Becerra, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"Let's take the politics out of the census," said Rep. Danny K. Davis, a Democrat. "The real issue is how to get the most accurate count. The answer is sampling."

Also joining in the news conference in support of sampling were representatives of the American Statistical Association, American Sociological Association, Japanese-American Citizens League, Organization of Chinese Americans, National League of Cities, National Conference of Mayors and National Congress of Americans.

can Indians.

The plan for 2000 census calls for contacting 90 percent of the households in each census tract—an area of several square blocks. This could be done by mail questionnaire, telephone call or personal visit.

In areas where at least 90 percent of the households respond to the initial mailing, census workers would visit one in 10 of the remaining households and estimate the characteristics of those not contacted.

Jackson Lobbies big three

CHICAGO (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson says his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will lobby the Big Three automakers on behalf of minority-owned auto dealerships.

The civil rights leader also said Monday his organization would use its new status as a shareholder in the Big Three to fight against what he sees as the systematic elimination of such dealerships.

"The automakers were supposed to be working toward parity for black and brown-owned dealerships, but instead, these dealerships are facing elimination," Jackson said in a telephone interview.

He said minorities often are the last people to get car dealerships, so they are the first to have their businesses closed during industry cutbacks.

"In the combined population of car buyers, you find that more than 30 percent are members of minority groups, but minority group members have less than 5 percent of domestic dealerships," Jackson said.

Jackson said minorities have even more difficulty in obtaining dealerships for imported vehicles. He plans to travel to Germany and Japan this summer to discuss the problem with automakers there.

"There are about 10,500 imported car dealerships in the country, and only 21 of them are owned by African-Americans," Jackson said. "And probably few are owned by Hispanics or Asians."

Jackson proposed that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler agree to a temporary moratorium on the closing of minority-owned dealerships until Rainbow/PUSH officials can meet with the automakers.

Rainbow/PUSH purchased stock in each of the Big Three earlier this month, which will permit Jackson to attend the companies' shareholder meetings, he said.

Messages were left Monday for spokespeople at Ford, GM and Chrysler.

Rainbow/PUSH's action was in response to complaints by the National Association of Minority Auto Dealers that the automakers were unwilling to assist such dealers with subsidies.

The dealers also complained that they were regularly overstocked with slow-selling vehicles, understocked with hot-selling models, and being charged exorbitant interest on vehicles remaining on the dealership floors.

"In addition, there are some industry trends that are most disturbing," Jackson said.

He cited the recently announced experiment in which Ford will begin buying back dealerships and selling cars directly to the public, putting it in competition with the remaining independently owned dealerships.

Jackson said there also could be competitive pressure on small dealerships from the growing number of publicly traded car superstores, such as AutoNation USA, the brainchild of H. Wayne Huizenga, the Blockbuster video entrepreneur.

mega-dealerships are a significant departure from the traditional outdoor car lots.

To lure customers, AutoNation uses low-pressure sales techniques, no-haggle prices, and large selections that potential buyers can scan at computer kiosks in big showrooms.

Sales growth of top black-owned business slows

By Maggie Jackson
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The growth of black-owned businesses has slowed, as some worry about a backlash against affirmative-action pro-

grams.

Sales for the top black-owned companies rose 7.75 percent to \$14.1 billion last year, Black Enterprise magazine reported Monday.

It's the first year of growth but a decline from the previous year's 11.8 percent expansion rate, the magazine noted in releasing its 25th annual listing of the top 100 black-owned industrial and service firms and top 100 auto dealerships.

"A lot of the hostile business environment we're seeing is due to the pullback of affirmative action and minority set-aside programs, which affect smaller businesses to a larger extent," said managing editor Matthew Scott.

Last week, for example, the Clinton administration announced proposals to curb race-based preferences for some minority businesses in awarding \$200 billion in federal contracts.

"As an African-American businessperson who believes it's a very important part of our economy to grow all of our businesses, I'm concerned that this is a very shortsighted strategy," said Roy Terry, chief executive officer of Terry Manu-

faturing Co. of Roanoke, Ala.

"The disadvantages that African-American companies suffered go back many years, but it will take many years to rectify that," said Terry, whose apparel-making company listed at No. 62nd on the Black Enterprise list with \$34.7 million in sales.

Scott said companies in the Fortune 500 and Forbes 500 also de-

clined, but at a less drastic rate.

He said downsizing and other cost-cutting efforts by those companies means less opportunity for smaller businesses, and most of the country's 621,000 black-owned businesses are small.

But Scott said the magazine is optimistic.

"We fully expect that the firms will find new ways to increase their revenues," he said.

Toppling the Black Enterprise list for a second year was TLC Beatrice

International Holdings Inc., a New York-based food processor and distributor that reported \$2.23 billion in sales.

Johnson Publishing Co. of Chicago ranked second with \$32.75 million in sales and Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co. third with \$32.5 million in sales.

Mel Fair Automotive Group of Oak Park, Ill., took the top ranking among auto dealers, which are listed separately. It had sales of \$503 million.

Michigan has the most businesses on the combined listing with 24, followed by New York (17), Illinois (16), Texas (15) and California (14).

To qualify for the list, a company must have been fully operational in 1996 and at least 51 percent black-owned. It must manufacture or own the product it sells or provide industrial or consumer services.

A Tribute for a Living Legend—

Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher



By Harry C. Alford

There are heroes and then there are heroes. Some are genuine and many are spin artists who master in "sound bite" heroism—much exposure but never much substance or gain when you sum it all up. Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher is truly a genuine hero. He is a man who has served his entire life working for the betterment of his people. This has come at terrible cost. His life has been a narrow path that remained obscured. At a 72 years of age, he still works constantly, despite three heart surgeries and sugar diabetes. God has definitely sent him on a mission and will see him up to the fullness of his life.

Unlike many of us who serve under US Presidents, Art took advantage of it for furthering the status of his people. As Assistant Secretary of Labor under Nixon, Art authored the present Day affirmative action laws.

"The Civil Rights Act was useless until we had something to "drive it."

Art gave us the tools through some services, laws and judicial savvy.

We must also note that he recently supported from the "tradition" civil rights groups during the establishment of affirmative action. They

would not even voice support or

critique during the congressional hearings while he was busy making it a reality. We put our politics before our race. Art was a Republican, and so would they not speak on behalf of affirmative action. Strange world, isn't it?

Art also integrated the trade unions through the revision of The Philadelphia Plan. For this a contract with his was used by organized labor. He was part of the group that chose the close protection of the Secret Service.

Art, he introduced "statu pay for equal work," which gave women their rightful place in the national work force.

As President of the United Negro College Fund, he coined the phrase, "The mind is a terrible thing to waste."

It became the most successful slogan in the history of fundraising. Despite this, the "gate keepers" had him fired for being too aggressive.

That aggressiveness carried through his years as Chairman of the US Civil Rights Commission.

"The mind is a terrible thing to waste."

It became the most successful slogan in the history of fundraising.

Art was a man who was born to be a leader.

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Fax legal ads to:
908-753-1036
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

For more information call
908-754-3400
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD 510 EAST FRONT STREET PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY	NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY GARDENSTATE PARKWAY WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY			
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD BD #97 - P697	NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for			
UPGRADE OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS				
THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD WILL RECEIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED VENDORS FOR THE PURCHASE, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMPUTER-BASED FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.				

IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ISRAEL TO REPLACE IT'S PRESENT SYSTEM AND TO FULLY AUTOMATE IT'S VARIOUS ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS.

ALL BID PACKAGES SHALL CLEARLY INDICATE THE SPECIFICATIONS, QUOTATIONS, AND CONDITIONS, AND BE ADDRESSED AND RECEIVED ON THE PLAINFIELD, 510 EAST FRONT STREET, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07040 AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE INDICATED ABOVE.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS (TELEPHONE NUMBER 908-753-1036).

ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVIEW THE PRESENT SYSTEM CAN BE MADE BY CALLING MR. CALIXTO GARCIA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AT (908-753-6335) 07.

BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF P.L. 1975 C. 122. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY ANY BIDDER WHO SUBMITS A BID THAT IS LESS THAN TWO (2) BIDS ARE RECEIVED.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ALL BIDS, AND TO AWARD ALL OR A PORTION OF THE AWARD TO ONE OR MORE RESPONSIBLE BIDDERS.

NO BIDS SHALL BE WITHDRAWN FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS SUBSEQUENT TO THE OPENING OF BIDS, UNLESS BY CONSENT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD.

CAROLYN REESE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\$10.00

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SECURITY SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park is requesting proposals from interested security firms to provide 24-hour security service of one of its facilities.

Proposals will be accepted until 12:00 noon, June 5, 1997. Interested applicants may obtain a request for proposal (RFP) package at the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park, 123 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey (07712) Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or by calling (908) 724-2000 or fax to (908) 724-2000.

\$33.00

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL COUNSEL

ONE YEAR PERIOD JUNE 1, 1997

THRU MAY 31, 1998

LONG BRANCH HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the Long Branch Housing Authority is requesting proposals from qualified law firms to provide legal counsel to the Authority for the term outlined in the request for proposals for the twelve month period ending May 31, 1998. Proposals should address the following quality, availability, and cost factors.

1. Experience with Housing Authority Counsel or HUD legal work or real estate law.

2. Knowledge of and/or experience with HUD Public Housing Regulation and

Procedures.

3. Experience with State Public Agencies Law, in particular Public Contracts Law.

4. Price.

5. State Housing Code and Landlord/Tenant Law.

6. Affirmative Action.

Demonstrate compliance with requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.C. 17:27-17). An Affirmative Action Plan is to be submitted as part of the proposal. Contractor to be responsible for the implementation and good faith affirmative action plan.

Attorneys submitting proposals must be licensed to practice law in the state of New Jersey and must not be under contract from HUC.

Proposals must be submitted to the Long Branch Housing Authority for prequalification and contract the Housing Authority for prequalification between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday at (908) 224-3747 extension 124.

Proposals must be submitted to the Long Branch Housing Authority for prequalification between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday between June 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any irregularities in the proposed process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID A. BROWN
\$106.60

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ONE YEAR PERIOD JUNE 1,

1997 CITY NEWS Awards Supplement

SECOND ANNUAL

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CITY NEWS
100
MOST INFLUENTIAL
100

MAY 1, 1997 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY



1014 Brown



Major General Marcelle Harris



Cissy Houston



Alfred Koeppé

*****SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE CLAUDE B. GOVAN AND HANNIBAL "KILLER" COX CHAPTERS OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN*****



Partnership to build a better community

Bell Atlantic is Proud
to be a Sponsor of the
2nd Annual City News
100 Most Influential

We Congratulate the
1997 Honorees

 **Bell Atlantic**
THE HEART OF COMMUNICATIONSM

Congratulations

from
Henry & Jan Johnson
 publishers of *City News*

Thank you for joining us in this second celebration of the City News 100 Most Influential honoring individuals, organizations, and corporations that are making significant contributions to the progress of black people and to New Jersey's urban communities. We believe that New Jersey must build a renewed energy to solve the problems of its urban center as we enter a new millennium. This event serves to bring together and highlight those who are meeting that challenge and winning the battles.

Our 100 Most Influential honorees come from throughout the State and are participants in their own way in making a difference in their communities or for communities served through their company. We join with those who value your efforts as we seek to build better communities in urban New Jersey.

Our special recognition of Major General Marcelite Harris and the Claude B. Govan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox Chapters of the Tuskegee Airman reminds us of the incredible spirit of achievement, honor, and victories of which we are capable when the door is opened. Most of all, their accomplishments remind us of our responsibility to become the best. We are so proud that we have an opportunity to recognize just some of these heroic airmen and support crews who are with us today.

In addition, we are truly honored to have Cissy Houston, a living legend, as one of our Special Honorees. Through her tremendous talent of song, we've all stood a little firmer in our convictions as we listen to her "joyful noise." We honor Tony Brown for his courage in keeping the American dialog real as it grapples with race and economics and for opening a multitude of media to keep the dialog going.

Last year's 100 Most Influential Honoree, Al Koeppel is our choice for this year's Eagle Award. Al is the perfect example of one who continues to raise the bar in his commitment to New Jersey's urban communities and to the implementation of diversity in corporate America.

We thank the sponsors and all who have joined us here this evening to give witness to the power of the people in New Jersey and beyond who make us proud and who inspire all to contribute to the betterment of society in general.



City News Publishing Company

City News is about linking individuals and families with the corporate and business community, churches, schools and community based organizations. City News specifically focuses on urban communities where a majority of black people live, work, shop and strive to improve their quality of living.

City News constantly draws on the past to make sense of current times and to provide direction for the challenges we face today and in the future. It is about our African heritage with roots deep in fertile soil having spawned

mankind and the first civilizations. It is about our American history with roots deep in slavery and struggle. It is about our victories and triumphs. It is about our setbacks and shortcomings. Most importantly City News and its family of publications are about the strengthens of the black community in New Jersey and richness of urban life.

Each week, City News helps to preserve the struggles, achievements, issues and dreams of black people for the annals of history, linking the past and future, helping to pave the way for a better tomorrow.

Proud to serve New Jersey's Urban Communities for 13 years



Moving in the right direction

Building like father, like son.

Leroy and Kenneth Morrison are a father and son team that is working with Chase's Community Development Group to make a difference in the community they call home.

The Morrisons are part of New York City's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Program. Working closely with the city and the New York City Housing Partnership, Chase helped create this program, which is designed to transfer ownership of clusters of city-owned vacant and occupied buildings to experienced neighborhood-based property managers/owners.

It all boils down to desire and commitment. The Morrisons' desire to do the tough things it takes to be responsible contractors and building managers. The Chase Manhattan Bank's commitment to have a long-term relationship with people who invest in themselves and their communities.

Through innovative financing programs and relationships with people like Leroy and Kenneth Morrison, Chase's Community Development Group is redefining the concepts of affordable housing and local entrepreneurship. We call that doing business right.

Leroy and Kenneth Morrison
of Lemor Realty surveying
construction at W. 140th St.

**CALL : CHASE REAL ESTATE
LENDING UNIT 212-622-3741**

→ **Community Development Group**

CHASE. The right relationship is everything.™



City News Honors 100 Most Influential at gala reception and awards program

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—They were reflective of the many facets that make up New Jersey, coming from the areas of education, civil rights, sports, media, business, religion, health & science, corporate industry, community service, entertainment, and politics. They were considered the best of the best in their profession, be it Gospel songstress Cissy Houston, television personality Tony Brown, or East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper. Some, like the Tuskegee Airmen and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Marcelite Harris were regarded as heroes and inspirations to this and future generations, and many are active to this day in securing that future. The May evening, tribute was paid to them at the City News Second Annual 100 Most Influential Awards held at the Newark Airport Marriott.

New Jersey's largest African-American weekly newspaper selected one-hundred persons to be recognized for their contributions toward the upward mobility of New Jersey's African-American community and to the building up of the state's urban areas. The nominations were received from the public, former nominees and honorees, sponsoring organizations and from City News staff. The honorees were notified of their award, and the entire roster was kept confidential until the award ceremonies.

Special tributes were set aside for the Tuskegee Airmen, who have been recognized for changing the course of World War II, and Maj. Gen. Harris, who at her retirement Feb. 9 was the highest ranking African-American female in the military. Cissy Houston, the gospel legend who has captivated audiences for 40 years, and whose daughter Whitney was an honoree last year, and television personality Tony Brown, who has been a popular staple on TV with his informative program about the concerns of the black community, *Tony Brown's Journal*, were honored with Outstanding Achievement Awards.

The event began with a reception and buffet where the honorees and attendees met for the first time. Afterwards, the festivities moved to the Grand Ballroom, where the ceremonies were hosted by Dr. Henry Johnson, publisher of City News, and his wife, Jan Edgerton Johnson, City News editor. The Malik Hajj El Shabazz High School Color Guard presented the colors for the event and the Invocation was given by Rev. Moses Knott of Imani Baptist Church. David Jefferson of AT&T, one of the events sponsors, welcomed everyone to the event as did Herbert Tate, president of the Board of Public Utilities, who in representing Governor Christie Whitman read a letter of praise from her to the City News and the event attendees.

The tributes began with reflections on Maj. Gen. Harris by Jan Johnson, who recalled their trip together to Brussels, Belgium, where the General led a delegation of about 100 top level servicewomen for the NATO Women's Conference. "It was such an experience...to see this woman who looks somewhat like me, and all these wonderful women of high command who are doing a job for this country," she said.

An upbeat General Harris came to the stage amid a standing ovation, and paid homage to the Tuskegee Airmen, saying that



Jan M. Edgerton Johnson, Editor of City News, and Dr. Henry Johnson, Publisher of City News were hosts for the evening's festivities.



Al Koeppe, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs for PSE&G (L) was the recipient of the Eagle Award.



Maj. General (ret.) Marcelite Harris and the Tuskegee Airmen were recipients of City News' Outstanding Achievement awards. They pose in front of the podium after receiving their awards.



Tony Brown, a City News Outstanding Achievement award recipient, is greeted by Jan Edgerton Johnson, Editor of City News.



Maj. General (ret.) Marcelite Harris and Cissy Houston were honored for their outstanding contributions and achievements at the City News 100 Most Influential.

they were successful, as she was, due to their perseverance. She spoke to the children when she spoke of that element of success. "Never let anybody close the door on you," she said to the audience, in particular the children present. "You must understand that you are the only person who could shut that door and you shut that door when you let someone else control your wants, your will and your mind." Upon leaving the stage, the Shabazz High School Guard formed a cordon which is two military columns for her to walk through.

The Tuskegee Airmen were honored with a video presentation detailing their accomplishments, and members of the Claude B. Govan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen came to the stage, also to a standing ovation to receive plaques honoring them. General Harris, who sits on the board of the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation, took the time to pose with the Airmen for a picture.

Saying that Tony Brown was "an idol for all of us" when she was in public broadcasting, Mrs. Johnson praised him for his work in journalism, radio, and television in giving him his Outstanding Achievement Award. Brown also paid homage to the Airmen, saying that African-Americans need to replicate them in the form of young men and women for the 21st century. "In our community we are behind other communities," he said. "In the black community, if we had a computer in every home, we will produce a Tuskegee Airmen or woman in every home."

"I hope that I have been able to share what I have been given with others, and by doing so touching them by some song or some words that I've said," Cissy Houston remarked to the audience as she received her Outstanding Achievement Award from Mrs. Johnson, who said she "has provided us with...so much joyful noise." She also relayed well wishes from her daughter Whitney, who could not attend due to prior commitments in Japan.

Dr. Johnson joined his wife on stage to present the 1997 Eagle Award to Al Koeppe, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs at PSE&G who was recognized for contributing highly and unselfishly to the community. "I'm overwhelmed, and I thank you very much," Mr. Koeppe said as he received his award. "I just try to find a spark in people that people found in me."

The 100 Most Influential of 1997 was introduced to the audience with video presentations for each of the twelve categories. The categories were presented by last year's honorees from that field and applause filled the room as each honoree was mentioned. The honorees each received a framed portrait of the 1997 recipients.

In addition to AT&T, the Awards Ceremony was sponsored by Bell Atlantic, Chase, PSE&G, CoreStates, GPU Energy, Hoechst Marion Roussel, PNC Bank, Prudential, Summit Bank, Valley National Bank, WLIB-AM/WBLS-FM, Cable Vision of Newark, Deloitte & Touche LLP, MetLife, Pepsi Cola, Schering-Plough, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Bank of New York, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey, Broad National Bank, City National Bank, Investors, Savings Bank, and Nabisco.

“We Congratulate the
City News 100 Most Influential
and members of the PSE&G family
for their commitment to help
build urban communities.”

The Power of Commitment
 **PSEG**



Joe Karas
AT&T Vice President
Brand Management Development
and Innovation

AT&T is pleased to once again co-sponsor the 100 Most Influential with City News to acknowledge those who are giving back to their communities.

I am especially proud of the four AT&T nominees on the list who were selected to receive a 1997 City News 100 Most Influential Award: Cephas Bowles, Charles Craig, Patricia Fields and Emily Mann. Through their important works, New Jersey is a better place to live and work, where the arts and music are part of the fabric of life and where people of all circumstances can aspire to improvement and fulfillment.

As a company, AT&T shares the City News' concern for the underprivileged and underserved. For that reason, each year we support numerous non-profit organizations across the state. In addition to contributions of charitable dollars, through our AT&T Cares initiative, employees volunteer their time and talent on

Corporate Co-host

hundreds of activities—from helping to build low-income housing, to wiring schools for the promise of technology, to participating in rescue squads. The company supports their volunteer activity with time off from work and philanthropic dollars to underscore the importance of community support, civic involvement and volunteer relationships.

AT&T values its relationship with City News. Over the years, Henry and Jan Johnson have done so much to promote positive activities in the African-American community. They have reported on the positive stories neglected by other media and have created programs to help our youth. The 100 Most Influential continues the tradition of highlighting the success stories in our state. On behalf of AT&T, I congratulate the Johnsons and City News for their tireless dedication and commitment.

Governor Christie Todd Whitman New Jersey

My congratulations to the individuals who have been selected for the 1997 100 Most Influential list. I am personally honored that you have selected Commerce Commissioner Gil Medina and Board of Public Utilities President Herb Tate to be included on this year's list.

Your special honorees are individuals to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude. The Tuskegee Airmen and General Marcelite Harris set standards in the United States military to which we should all aspire. Tony Brown has helped us all

understand just how important the Tuskegee Airmen were to our nation's success in World War II.

Making New Jersey a better place requires the participation of everyone in the Garden State. The City News is an important part of New Jersey's diverse and rich culture and I'm glad that you and your readers all call New Jersey home.

Again, congratulations to all of your honorees.



Mayor Sharpe James Newark, New Jersey

As the most widely-circulated African-American weekly newspaper in New Jersey, City News is a tremendous asset to the state's largest and most culturally-diverse city—the City of Newark. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I salute the staff of your extraordinary publication for creating the 100 Most Influential Awards program to honor and celebrate the efforts of outstanding individuals and corporations.

Thanks to the 100 Most Influential program, the public has an opportunity to recognize people who have supported and contributed to the upward mobility of New Jersey's African-American population. This year's honorees have been greatly responsible for



infusing economic, social, cultural, scientific, spiritual and political vitality into this great State of ours.

Having shared this honor at the first annual 100 Most Influential Awards ceremony last year, it gives me great pleasure to join you in saluting this year's esteemed group of prestigious honorees, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Major General Marcelite Harris, Radio Host Tony Brown and Newark's own Cissy Houston. Their vast contributions truly have helped make a difference in our nation's history.

Please know that you have my best wishes for continued success in your outstanding organization and in all of your endeavors.



Outstanding Achievement

Major General Marcelite Harris

Major General Marcelite J. Harris can be credited with paving the way for African-American women who aspire to rise within the ranks of the United States Air Force. Harris, who began her military career in 1965, started as an Administrative Officer.

Throughout her career, she became the first African-American female officer to accomplish several goals, and to obtain certain positions. In 1968, she was the first woman to become an Aircraft Maintenance Officer. She later became the Air Force's first woman Deputy Commander for Maintenance, the first African-American Brigadier General, the first woman Director of Maintenance, and the Defense Department's first African-American woman Major General.

While serving as director of maintenance, Harris organized, trained and equipped a work force of more than 125,000 technicians and managers. She also maintained the \$260 billion plus Global Reach-Global Power aerospace weapons systems inventory.

Even though she focused on aircraft maintenance during her career, Major General Harris also gained experience in technical training, personnel management, systems acqui-

sition, human relations, and finance and budget management. She was the designer and planner for the Air Force's Outsourcing and Privatization Program, and planned and implemented the Mission Ready Technician initiative, training airmen to a level between apprentice and journeyman.

Her outstanding leadership abilities earned her the Bronze Star as a flightline maintenance officer for exemplary performance during the Vietnam war. Harris' awards and honors did not stop there. She has received the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, been cited as the "Most Prestigious Individual" by Dollars and Sense magazine, named "Woman of the Year" by the National Organization of the Tuskegee Airmen and "Military African-American Woman" by the National Political Congress of Black Women, Incorporated.

Major General Harris, a lifetime member of the round table of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and Chairman of the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces, has been listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans, Who's Who Among Business Women and Who's Who in America.

Outstanding Achievement

Claude B. Govan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox Chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen

City News is proud to salute the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in war and for helping to establish the integrity and honor of black people in America.

As the most crucial war in man's history raged in Europe and the Pacific, another momentous battle was taking place on the American home front - between brothers-in-arms. In World War II American, black soldiers were fighting for and being denied the respect, honor and remuneration given their white comrades and their struggle was often met with treachery, violence and even murder.

They were extraordinary men, these black eagles. They came through the most rigorous training, purposely intensified because of their color, fought "Jim Crow" in America

and ignorance abroad and emerged with what may be the most singular set of honors, awards and achievements of any American fighting unit.

Commanded by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, later to become the first black Lt. General in the Air Force, the 450 pilots fought in the air over Sicily, North Africa and Europe, often forced to use outdated aircraft. They flew more than 15,000 sorties and completed 1578 missions. They destroyed 409 enemy aircraft and, incredibly, sank an enemy destroyer with machine gun fire. Their strafing missions wrought havoc in enemy communications and supply lines.

Sixty-six of the Tuskegee airmen were killed in combat and thirty-two were shot down and captured. They came

home with 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legions of Merit, 1 Silver Star, 14 Bronze Stars, 8 Purple Hearts and 744 Air Medal and Clusters.

Speak to a Tuskegee Airman and you will learn of his hair-raising perils, poignant tragedy, the exultation of victory, treachery from enemies and from allies, and the deadly hazards of war. He will speak of healing, of courage and of the will to succeed at any cost. He will also tell you what it was like to make it in mid-century America when you had everything going for you, except the right color skin.

We salute these pioneers—The Tuskegee Airmen for their courage to face the odds and win.

First black combat pilots Establish National Office

BY SONYA ROSS ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Recalling war memories undimmed by time, a half dozen members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen came together Wednesday to establish the first national office for their elite group.

The Tuskegee Airmen Inc. set up shop at the Air Force Association building here to better coordinate the educational programs run by their three regional chapters and to be more accessible to corporate sponsors.

But a primary purpose is to simply tell the Tuskegee Airmen's story, offering the airmen themselves, all well over age 70 now but still quite spry, for speaking engagements.

"This was the first affirmative action the United States ever had," joked Claude C. Robinson, a member of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first crop of black fighter pilots.

The airmen celebrated with an evening reception outside their suite of offices, which were still being painted Wednesday. Among those attending the reception was Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who was their commanding officer.

Among the airmen's goals is to expand their scholarship fund, which awards \$60,000 in scholarships each year to young people interested in careers in aviation.

Between 1941 and 1948, 996 black men went to an airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., for training

offered by the War Department.

The training was intended initially to show that blacks lacked the physical and psychological stamina to fly fighter missions. Instead, the Tuskegee-trained pilots garnered one of the best records in military aviation history.

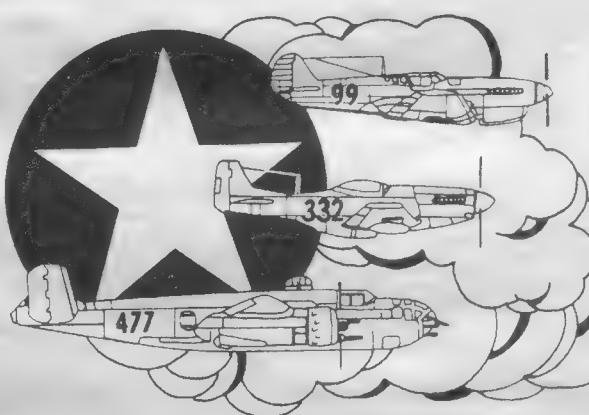
Under their escort, not one American bomber was lost to enemy action while en route to their World War II missions. In June 1944, one pilot, Lt. Gwynne Pierson, took out a German destroyer near Trieste, Italy by merely firing his eight 50-caliber machine guns at it until it exploded and sank.

"It wasn't as hard as it might seem," said Col. Charles Sheppard, who enlisted to become a mechanic but went on to fly with the 302nd Fighter Squadron.

"This was no bunch of rinky-dinks off the street," Sheppard said. "Davis instilled in us discipline. We were very proud. We struggled together. We solved our problems."

Of the 450 Tuskegee trainees who became fighter pilots, 66 were killed in action and 32 were taken prisoner of war.

The medals they earned included 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Silver Star, one Legion of Merit, eight Purple Hearts and three Presidential Unit citations.





Eagle Award

Al Koeppe

Alfred C. Koeppe has garnered outstanding achievements in the utilities and telecommunications industries. A graduate of Rutgers University (B.A. degree in English) and Seton Hall Law School, he was named Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs for PSE&G in November of 1996. Prior to being promoted to that position, Mr. Koeppe worked as Senior Vice President - External Affairs.

Before joining the PSE&G family, Alfred enjoyed a long-standing career with Bell Atlantic - New Jersey. At Bell Atlantic, he was first the Vice President of public affairs, responsible for rate and regulatory matters. He later became President and Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to his career achievements, Alfred Koeppe holds membership in a number of organizations. He is a member of the New Jersey Network Foundation Board of Trustees, St. Benedict's Prep School in Newark, the Board of Governors of the National Conference, the Better Business Bureau Executive Council, the Public Affairs Institute of New Jersey and Prosperity New Jersey.

In an obvious response to his concern about drug use, Mr. Koeppe is the acting Chairman of the Governor's Council for A Drug Free Workplace. He is also a member in the American, New Jersey and Essex County Bar Associations, and serves as a Board of Director

Special Honorees

of Digital Solutions, Inc. and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey.

An entrepreneur and inventor in his own right, Koeppe has made a significant contribution to the penal system. He is the inventor and patent holder of a home incarceration system that operates through telecommunications technology.

A staunch supporter of diversity, he has received several awards in recognition of his efforts: the Association of Latino Bell Atlantic Employees Recognition Award, a Diversity Award presented by the Consortium of Information Technological Executives, and the Trailblazer Award presented by the Council of Action for Minority Professionals.

Outstanding Achievement

Cissy Houston

Cissy Houston—gospel singer, renowned session vocalist, and mother to singing sensation Whitney Houston—has sung a joyful noise on many records and in her Newark, NJ-based house of worship, New Hope Baptist Church.

Her singing career began at the age of five, when she toured and sang with her family's gospel group, The Drinkard Sisters.

Their signature sound, in addition to impressing audiences around the world, also impressed some of rhythm & blues' hottest stars. The group sang with the likes of Chuck Jackson, Wilson Pickett and Aretha Franklin. The late sixties found them performing with Elvis Presley during his Las Vegas comeback shows.

In the '70s, Cissy became part of a

female group "The Sweet Inspirations." Their song, "Sweet Inspiration," reached the Top Ten on the R&B charts and was nominated for a Grammy Award. Following her stint with the Sweet Inspirations, Cissy recorded solo LPs, performed at Carnegie Hall, the Cannes Music Festival and won the Most Outstanding Artist Award at the Yamaha Festival in Tokyo. Houston later opened her own voice studio and acted in Off-Broadway productions.

Cissy, who sang background vocals on several recordings by Whitney ("I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and "How Will I Know") and Luther Vandross, is reveling in the success of "Face To Face," her first solo album in 15 years. The album, which features a

30-voice choir from Newark, won Cissy a Grammy award this past March.

Cissy restricts her musical work largely to background singing because of her 20-year commitment as minister of music at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. When not immersed in her love of music, she gives of her time as the President and CEO of the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc. The organization was founded by Whitney to aid disadvantaged youth.

In 1995, Cissy was the recipient of a Rhythm & Blues Foundation Pioneer Award, and has received honorary doctorate degrees from Kean and Essex County colleges. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Sammy Davis Jr. Foundation.



Outstanding Achievement

Tony Brown

Tony Brown can very easily be credited with having paved the way for many African-American journalists. Founder of the National Association of Black Media Producers, he has hosted his television interview program, "Tony Brown's Journal," for 25 years.

As commentator and executive producer of the show, Brown tackles issues that have prompted discussion and instigated controversy. His programs deal with computer literacy, politics, self-help, and the state of blacks in America.

His popular call-in radio show broadcasts Monday through Thursday from 2-5 p.m., on WLIB-AM radio. Some of the show's impassioned topics have ranged from economic empowerment to race relations. Mr. Brown was selected by

"Talkers" magazine as one of "the 100 most important radio talk show hosts in America."

Mr. Brown has taken many of his opinions and views and compiled them in his first book, "Black Lies, White Lies: The Truth According to Tony Brown" published by William Morrow Company. The text addresses the state of Black leadership, AIDS, Brown's plan to make black America work and his anecdotes to making America work if he were president.

To assure that he's not on the outskirts of the cyber age, Mr. Brown has spearheaded Tony Brown Online—The Cyberspace Club. The club is a nationwide online computer service that links subscribers to worldwide internet users.

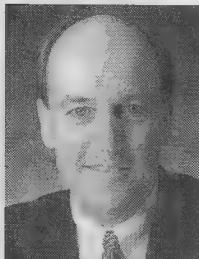
Netizens who subscribe to Brown's network are offered E-mail, databases, business and employment opportunities, forums, youth activities and computer training.

Tony Brown's unending journalist commitments to the public include a syndicated column that appears in African-American newspapers across the country. Mr. Brown's many hats include cultural diversity consultant, keynote speaker, educator, media entrepreneur and film director. Mr. Brown produced "Black Eagles," a documentary film on the Tuskegee Airmen that has helped to share their pioneering experience with thousands.



Presentors

Len Lauer



Community Development

Cecil Banks, Esq.



Community Service

Fred Toca



Health, Science & Technology

Shirley Ward



Corporate Community Involvement

Elaine Harrington



Civil Rights

Carl Brooks



Entertainment & Sports

Etta Denk



Economic Development

Sen. Ronald Rice



Politics, Law & Government

Avis Yates



Minority Business Enterprise

C. Roy Epps



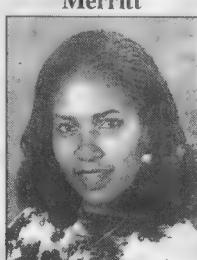
Education

Rev. Reginald Jackson



Religion

Patricia Reid-Merritt

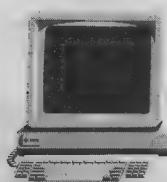


Media, Arts & Culture

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"Our nettlesome task is to discover how to organize our strength into compelling power."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goal of Community Development is to organize our communities to give its residents a sense of well-being which includes housing, jobs, education, recreation and enterprise. The following men and women have taken on this task in extraordinary ways, particularly in the urban communities of New Jersey—building blocks and neighborhoods one by one helping to improve the quality of life.

Stephen N. Adubato

Stephen N. Adubato has been committed to helping Newark's civic, cultural and educational development for 27 years. As the founder and Executive Director of the North Ward Center, Mr. Adubato oversees the agency which helps meet the needs of children, young adults and senior citizens. He is also the founder of the Robert Treat Academy Charter School, the Newark Business Training Institute and is a trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark. A former counselor, teacher and supervisor for the Newark Board of Education, Stephen is now a strong advocate for the Newark Community School of the Arts and is a member of the Newark chapter of the NAACP.



Lydia Barrett

Lydia Barrett, President and CEO of the Urban League of Essex County, directs programs that aid in the career and personal development of the citizens in her community. Inspired by her parents to work to improve the lives of other Blacks, Lydia has built effective programs that teach job training, computer skills, and home buyer education. Addressing her concern for teenage parents, she developed TEEN PROGRESS, a New Jersey welfare to work program. Mrs. Barrett has served at a number of other social agencies and as a program officer for the Victoria Foundation. As a volunteer, she recently served for three years as chairperson of the Montclair Civil Rights Commission.



Noreen Casey

Noreen Casey is responsible for contributing to the development of our youth and communities. As Senior Vice President of CoreStates Financial Corporation, she created and developed the CoreStates New Jersey National Bank Community Development Department and currently serves as its director. The department's activities include education, youth support, affordable housing, and economic development programs throughout New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Ms. Casey, who serves as a board member for the Camden Collaborative and is the Board President of the Mercer County Hispanic Association, is also a board member of the W.K. Kellogg National Leadership plan.



Gail Davis

Gail Davis has dedicated most of her volunteer life to organizations that provide prevention and intervention programs for urban adolescents and children. She is on the board of Community Agencies Corporation, NJ, Inc., one of the largest multi-purpose youth organizations in New Jersey; and was responsible for establishing PSE&G's volunteer program which included a weekly student tutorial program serving over 150 children. Gail mobilizes over 600 March of Dime team walkers each year. She is the Urban Initiatives Executive for the Public Service, Electric & Gas Company. In that capacity, she develops and manages urban revitalization projects that relate to education and job training, housing, transportation, public safety and social services.



Shirley A. DeLibero

As Executive Director of NJ Transit, Shirley A. DeLibero improved service quality, safety and enhanced the efficiency of the transit's operations. She has spent her career in the transit system focusing on the concerns of the 188 million passengers each year that ride NJ Transit and with running a top-notch transit system. Since her appointment in 1990, Shirley has given the third largest multi-modal public transit system a 14.5% growth in ridership with no fare increases or reduction in service. She has received awards from Women Executives in State Government Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award, Outstanding Administrator Award from the Black Issues Convention, and the American Public Transit System's Jesse L. Haugh Award as Transit Manager of the Year.



Kathleen DiChiara

Fewer people in the state of New Jersey are going hungry because of the work of Kathleen DiChiara. As Executive Director and Founder of the Community Foodbank of New Jersey, Kathleen distributes donated food to more than 1500 charities in 18 counties. The Foodbank's staff is made up of people from various religious, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. Kathleen's organization has committed itself to providing employment opportunities for everyone. Some of their staff members are addicts in recovery and ex-offenders. Kathleen has received awards from the Pope and the State Legislature for her undying efforts in community service.



Ellen Dotto

As Director, ONJ Initiatives at Bell Atlantic, Ellen Dotto has been Project Manager for Project Explore at the Christopher Columbus School in Union City, and a Project Team Leader for Renaissance 2000 Technology Center in New Brunswick. She is also responsible for the implementation of Opportunity New Jersey, Bell Atlantic's commitment to accelerate the deployment of their advanced telecommunications network throughout New Jersey. In the past she has served as the Chairperson of the Middlesex County Employer Legislative Committee and on the Boards of New Brunswick Tomorrow and the Middlesex and Union Counties Chambers of Commerce. She is a member of the Board of Governors of Union County College.



Milton Harrison

As President and CEO of the Newark YMCA, Milton Harrison is credited with returning the landmark building to the institution residents remember. To establish his goal, Harrison developed a strategic plan that involved cleaning up the building and a subsequent grand re-opening. Under his direction, the Y now boasts a state-of-the-art fitness center and social service facility. To complete his vision, Mr. Harrison designed programs for children of working parents and for the homeless. Milton Harrison has successfully provided and maintained a facility with programs that benefit the residents of Newark and surrounding communities.



Community Development (Continued)

JOHN LEONARD

John Leonard has 20 years experience in the banking industry. He is the Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank. In that capacity, his goal has been to enhance the bank's leadership position in funding "partnerships that work" with community-based organizations. John heads a team of street bankers whose job it is to increase the extent of resources and programs in New Jersey, upstate New York and Connecticut. He has served as Director of Community Relations for the Community Development group. Leonard manages Chase Bank's Community Advisory Board. He has received awards from the Queens Council of the Arts, the NAACP and the Neighborhood Housing Services of New York.

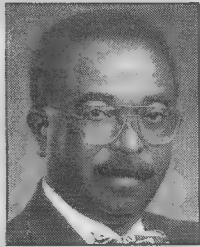


Tony Peele

As the Executive Director of Community Agencies Corporation (CAC) of NJ, Tony Peele oversees four non-profit corporations. The inter-related agencies - Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Protestant Community Centers, Inc.; Cross Counters, Inc.; and Student/Partner Alliance - have a \$5 million budget and 140 employees. The goal of programs sponsored by CAC is to increase the self-worth and confidence of the families and children who participate. Mr. Peele was instrumental in the establishment of the James Street Neighborhood House, presently known as PCCI's Center for Children. He has received a B.A. and M.A. from the New School of Social Research in Urban Professions, with an emphasis on Human Resources and Psychology. Tony Peele has set a standard in community involvement.

Harold Lucas

Harold Lucas, a graduate of Seton Hall Law School, has dedicated himself to changing the face of Newark's public housing. His impressive career in housing development has led him to his current position of Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) in 1992. The goal of the NHA is to provide Newark residents with safe and sanitary housing. A member of the Garden State Bar, the New Jersey Bar, and the National Bar Associations, Mr. Lucas is responsible for spearheading a new construction program and reducing the extensive waiting list for apartments.



Rev. Dr. Willie Simmons

Communities across the country need more individuals concerned with helping to lighten some of the problems incurred by people in low-income communities. As the President of the Board of Directors of the United Community Corporation, Reverend Willie Simmons insures that the planning and implementing of programs that involve rebuilding neighborhoods, helping the homeless and hungry, job training and other services, are carried out. In addition, Rev. Dr. Simmons can be credited with bringing together the first meeting of Black and Latino Ministers in Essex County to discuss mutual areas of concern and possible solutions. Reverend Simmons, who has been the recipient of more than 100 awards, is the State Chaplain of the New Jersey Black Issues Convention and President of the United Community Holding Corporation.

Donald C. Mann

As Senior Vice President of Community Resources for the Prudential Insurance Company, and Chair of the Prudential Foundation, Donald C. Mann contributes millions of dollars yearly to non-profit groups that focus on the needs of children and society. Mann also oversees Prudential's Corporate Social Responsibility commitment toward affordable housing, is a member of the Governor's School of New Jersey and the Labor Policy Association, established Advocates for Newark's Children and mentors young African-Americans in Newark. His work embodies corporate dedication and concern for rebuilding communities and responding to the needs of youth.

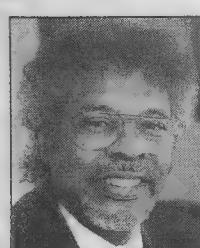


Mary Smith

Mary Smith has a strong commitment to children. As Executive Director of Babyland Services, she heads six child care centers which provide quality care and early childhood education for more than 600 low-income, abused and homeless children. The organization also provides shelter and counseling to over 240 battered women and foster care for 300 boarder babies and sibling children. Mary, who has pioneered child care for babies living with AIDS, is also the Treasurer of New Community Corporation. NCC is a non-profit community organization that built and manages over 3,000 units of affordable housing and has provided employment training and placement for over 10,000 community residents.

William T. Merritt

William T. Merritt's efforts in public service and leadership development exemplify his dedication to helping Black organizations. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Black United Fund, he organized and developed the National Black United Federation of Charities which, so far, have raised \$10 million dollars for national Black organizations. In an effort to expand the efforts, members and projects of the organization, Merritt organizes and develops new local Black United Funds as affiliates. Mr. Merritt is also responsible for the development of MAARK, a community leadership development program which recruited and trained prospective volunteers in corporate arenas to serve on the Boards of Directors for not-for-profit organizations.



Ella S. Teal

Ella Teal's goal is to assist African-Americans and other minority groups in their achievement of social and economic equality. As President/CEO of the Urban League of Union County, Teal has implemented programs for employment, day care, housing, and youth counseling in the areas of teen pregnancy, day treatment for juvenile offenders, and summer youth employment. The agency, which serves over 2,600 county residents through its programs, grew from a \$450,000 agency in 1979 to a solid diversified direct service delivery agency with over a budget of more than \$1.5 million. Teal somehow finds time to devote to various councils and organizations. She is a member and Former Chair of the Human Service Advisory Council and a Union County Representative of the New Jersey State Human Service Advisory Council.

Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto

Setting precedent is nothing new to Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto. In April of 1996, she became President and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. She is the first woman to head a Metro I United Way, responsible for raising and allocating over \$10 million dollars annually. As President/CEO of United Way, Maria is also responsible for the operations, planning and policy development for the largest United Way organization in the state of New Jersey. When addressing her community involvement, Maria says, "I have made a personal and professional decision to focus my energies to nurture children, strengthen families and build healthier communities."



COMMUNITY SERVICE

"Blackness is not a hairstyle. It is not a dashiki. Judge my blackness by the jobs that we have, by the money we are able to generate in our community...."

Bertha Knox Gilkey

This category recognizes the sustained, committed efforts by individuals to provide assistance, resources, and support to build communities where everyone can live and grow with dignity.



Donald Bernard, Sr.

From his work in the fight against AIDS and drugs to his current position as Chairman of the African-American Day Parade, Donald Bernard has undoubtedly been an asset to his community. An independent consultant, Donald works with Nocaine, Inc., a non-profit consultant firm which works to bring hope and choices to communities in the area of Drug Education and AIDS. On the cultural front, he has turned the African-American Heritage Parade into a festival that celebrates the pride and prosperity of African-American people. A parade committee has been formed that brings forth education and awareness of crucial, educational, economic, and social issues affecting African-Americans. Donald Bernard presently works at the Newark Watershed Conservation where he serves as Manager of Special Projects.



Lamrya Clarke

Lamrya Clarke believes that everyone has something to give back to their community. She has given back through her continual efforts with several organizations. As the youngest president of a graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Lamrya became involved with a monthly "Feed the Hungry" program. She has also participated in programs for AIDS awareness, voter education, the black family, and several other projects benefiting urban communities. Lamrya, who is the president of the Central Presbyterian Women's Organization at Central Presbyterian Church, is a Systems Analyst at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.



Geraldine Boone

Geraldine Boone has been an educator for more than 27 years. A third grade teacher in New Brunswick, she is active in the areas of arts and recreation. Boone is also the fundraising chairperson of her New Brunswick school's PTA. In addition to shaping the minds of young people at the elementary level, she is an academic advisor at Rutgers University. Boone is currently President of the PAYDTA Tennis Club and the Crossroads Theatre Guild. She is also a member of the Crossroads Theatre Guild and serves on the Board of Trustees of Crossroads Theatre. A member of St. James AMG Zion Church of Perth Amboy since 1970, she has also taught Sunday School for twenty five years. "I believe that we should all do whatever we can to help people," Geraldine says, "and as much as we can do at all times."



Brenda Cooney

For over 20 years, Brenda Cooney has been an advocate for the health and welfare of young people. As President of Middlesex County Alliance for the Mentally Ill, she has been an invaluable asset, providing education and support for families and friends. The Journey of Hope, a program Brenda chairs, offers free assistance to any person having difficulty dealing with Mental Health. The everyday lives of autistic children are made easier through Ms. Cooney's work at the Piscataway Regional Day School. She is also a member of the Middlesex County Women on Disability, the Middlesex County Lyme Disease Support Group, and the Middlesex County Health Board-Advocate and Empowerment Committee. Brenda has been a Girl Scout leader since 1976.



Thomas Bracken

Thomas Bracken is President/CEO of CoreStates Bank for the State of New Jersey. A strong believer in giving every person the opportunity to achieve their personal goals, Thomas prides himself in his strong belief in diversity and his efforts to that end. "Accomplishing diversity can only be done through a true merit system where no discrimination takes place," he says. Bracken was recently appointed by Gov. Whitman to serve on the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College). He is a member of the board of the New Jersey Network Foundation, the New Jersey State Chamber and the New Jersey Cancer Institute.



Martin Cox

A Lifelong Plainfield resident Martin Cox is co-founder and president of the Youth for Action Movement, Inc. The organization, which consists of 51 African-American males whose goal is to change the negative images of African-American men in society, has been an active force in the community. Their concentrated areas of work include youth athletics and recreation. Over 3000 families in Plainfield have benefited from their contributions to programs such as Pop Warner Football and Plainfield Babe Ruth Baseball. YAM has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for their Stay in School program by the State Department of Human Services. In his professional career, Mr. Cox acts as a consultant through his company MP Cox International.



Iry Byrd

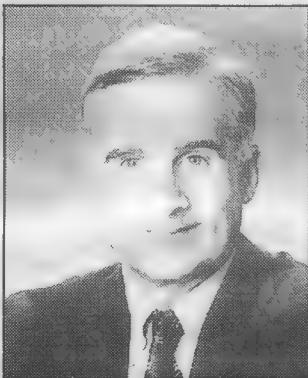
Iry Byrd is the Inter-corporate Liaison of the Council of Action for Minority Professionals. She is credited with establishing the first New Jersey corporate forum consisting of 13 Fortune 500 companies, all having minority organizations within them, to address issues and concerns that affect the black community. Iry is also co-chairperson for Women in Support of the Million Man March, where she was instrumental in the purchase of the historic Feigenspan Mansion in Newark for the organization. She has served on the Hillsdale Zoning Board for a 4-year term. Iry boasts twenty-six years experience as an accomplished telecommunications manager. She is presently Assistant Manager in Network Operations at Bell-Atlantic.



Mary W. Cudjoe

Mary Cudjoe has the task of ensuring public awareness of Dr. Martin Luther King's ideals and philosophy. As Executive Director of the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, she acts as advisor to the 45 members of the Commission and provides staff support to the board. In addition, Cudjoe oversees grant awards and serves as the Secretary of State's representative. Mary Cudjoe is inspired by the legacy and living words of King and considers her work in conjunction with New Jersey's Many Faces-One Family among her greatest accomplishments. Mary is also the Ethics Liaison Officer (ELO) and the Affirmative Action Officer (AAO) for the Department of State.

Congratulations to PSE&G's City News 100 Most Influential Honorees



Al Koeppe
Senior Vice President,
Corporate Services and External Affairs
Eagle Award Recipient



John H. Maddocks
Vice President,
Public Affairs



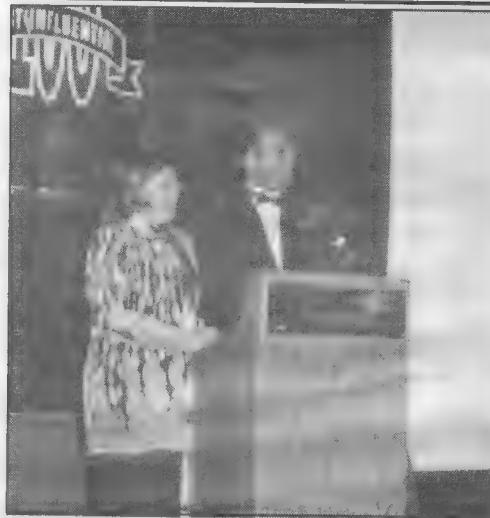
John R. Smith
Manager of Strategic Public Affairs
Regulatory



Gail Davis
Urban Initiatives Executive

PSE&G is proud to congratulate Al Koeppe for his Eagle Award as well as our other City News 100 Most Influential honorees. These awards from City News underscore PSE&G's dedication to all of our state's residents and our ongoing commitment to making New Jersey's neighborhoods work.

The Power of Commitment
 PSEG



Highlights of
the 2nd Annual
City News

100 Most Influential



CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND



PARTNERING TO REBUILD OUR COMMUNITIES





Community Service (Continued)



Miguel Edghill

For the past 11 years, Miguel Edghill has been a tireless advocate for the Plainfield community, involving himself in many educational and civic activities. Edghill is currently the President of the F.W. Cook School Advisory Council (CSAC), a member of the School LINCC (Leadership, Innovation and Change Council), and President of the Barbados Charitable Organization of New Jersey. He is credited with improving the atmosphere of openness at the CSAC, resulting in the rise in number of parents and staff attending meetings. For the Charitable Organization, he has successfully raised funds for the purchase of a Dialysis machine in a Barbados hospital used by a number of Caribbean countries. Miguel, by profession, is an account representative at MetLife and serves as the Secretary of MetLife's African-American Marketing Group.



Marion Fowler

Employment and community service are very important to Marion Fowler. Fowler's motivation lies in helping others start their own businesses. She is the Executive Director of Candace Enterprises, a management consulting firm, which in 1985 expanded to include a training center for computer applications and human resource development. Of her first graduating class, five of the six graduates received employment offers, giving the program publicity throughout the county. This accomplishment brought community support for the program's continuation. Marion's community involvement also includes assisting the homeless through her work with the McCloud Foundation. She is the Vice President of the Coalition of 100 Black Women and is an active participant in the NAACP and the Black Women's History Conference.



Avery Grant

A constant advocate of human and civil rights, Avery Grant participated in the first Peace Prayer March on Washington and sat at lunch counter sit-ins in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel and a Vietnam Veteran. Grant is currently the Secretary of the Board of Directors for EXODUS, Inc., a rehabilitation half-way residence for substance abuse. Presently, Mr. Grant, who is a professional Engineer, acts as the Public Liaison for the Scott Conover Youth Foundation. Through his work, he encourages youth to participate in recreational and academic activities.



Mary E. Mathis-Ford

Mary E. Mathis-Ford is known for her outstanding work in pre-natal education for young women and her commitment to the community. For twenty years, she has worked for Planned Parenthood Metropolitan New Jersey and is the Coordinator Outreach of the branch's Education and Community Relations Department. For the past eight years, Mary has been the chairperson of UMDNJ's Board of Concerned Citizens, co-founding and organizing Harmony Day. She has appeared on television and radio to talk about teen pregnancy and family planning. Mary is also a member of the Essex County Mental Health Board, a former member of Bloomfield College EOF Board, and member of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church.



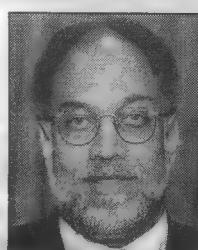
Harry Paden

As Educational Liaison to Irvington Mayor Sara Bost, Harry Paden keeps the Mayor informed about issues that will enhance the delivery of education to Irvington students. Mr. Paden communicates directly with adults in the community and relays the concerns of Irvington's youth and parents to the Mayor. In his spare time, Paden gives of his efforts as a part-time Parent Coordinator for the Irvington Board of Education. He stresses the importance of parents playing an active role in their Children's education. A graduate of American University, Harry Paden is the Chairman of the Essex County Superior Courts Juvenile Conference Committee.



Dr. Webster B. Trammell

Dr. Webster Trammell has been involved in education administration for nearly twenty eight years. Trammell, who has been an active participant in community-based organizations, is currently the Vice President for Planning and Development at Brookdale Community College. He is responsible for the school's planning and development for governmental relations and resource development. His inspiration, he says, comes from a desire to give back to the community that supported his educational endeavors. Dr. Trammell has also dedicated himself to working with various organizations: He is the Director of the United Way of Monmouth County and Chairman of the Monmouth County Urban League Board of Directors. Webster Trammell is the recipient of many awards and citations recognizing his efforts in education.



Don Viapree

With Don Viapree's help, Newark Emergency Services for Families and Newark's Homeless Healthcare Through Comic Relief have been the benefactors of several fundraising efforts. Don, a graduate of Bowling Green State University, is the Assistant General Manager at Cablevision of Newark. Considered an authority in the field of communications, he has worked in the cable industry for 15 years. He is a member of the Newark Arts Council, the Garden State Association of Black Journalists, the International Youth Organization and The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. "Voluntary tasks represent an ineluctable magnet," he says of his efforts. "I willingly support and dedicate myself to groups who strive to improve our current state of condition."

City
News
*proud to
serve New
Jersey's
African-
American and
urban
communities
for 13 years*

City News, published each Wednesday, focuses on the news, events, and interests of African-American communities in New Jersey. Its primary target market is the Metropolitan Newark area with additional distribution in Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth and Mercer Counties.

City News regularly features local community news, editorials, commentary by local columnists, area business news, political commentary, entertainment and religious news. Calendars of events, health and fitness reports, education and youth news are regular features.

City News stands as an intelligent, sensible and motivating voice of, for and by the African-American population in New Jersey and is a great medium for public and legal notices, display and classified advertising.

HEALTH, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY

"We get closer to God as we get more intimately and understandingly acquainted with the things He has created. I know of nothing more inspiring than that of making discoveries for one's self."

-George Washington Carver

This category honors those individuals who continue to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community. These individuals, in the advance of medical, scientific, and technological fields, have improved the quality of life, increased longevity, and helped our people enjoy life to its fullest potential.



Richard B. Ahlfeld

Children's Specialized Hospital, a state-wide, non-profit, 115 bed rehabilitation specialty hospital system in Mountainside is run by its President, Richard Ahlfeld. Employed at the hospital since 1974, and named CEO in 1985, Mr. Ahlfeld is responsible for guiding the development of a system geared toward the special needs of children. A constant supporter of Medicaid, he has written several articles in its defense while Congress grapples with changing the current system. Mr. Ahlfeld has been on the board of the local American Red Cross and a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Westfield, NJ. He is presently a member of the Executive Board of the Sloan Alumni Association and serves as a trustee of the National Association of Children's Hospitals.



Dr. Francine Essien

Dr. Francine Essien, a committed professor in the Division of Life Sciences at Rutgers University, has founded or co-founded a number of programs geared towards helping youth as they pursue science-related careers. She established the Office of Minority Undergraduates Science Programs (OMSUP) at Rutgers, where she also serves as director. It is her goal to increase the number of African-American and Latino professionals in the fields of science and engineering. Dr. Essien has directed some of her research efforts toward the field of developmental genetics with a focus on environmental factors in causing birth defects. Dr. Essien, who founded the Success in the Sciences Program and ACCESS-MED, has received awards from the National Technical Association and was named US Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



Mark J. Chastang

Mark J. Chastang is dedicated to providing affordable and quality healthcare to his hospital's patients. As President/CEO of East Orange General and Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified healthcare organizations in New Jersey, Chastang oversees matters pertaining to all companies of Essex County Healthcare. Chastang has raised the level of service and respect from the ~~East Orange Community Health Center~~ physician for his facilities and expanded the number of managed care contracts for patients. Mark says he is dedicated to the idea that quality healthcare is affordable to everyone.



Beverley Henderson

"Giving back to the community is the price we pay for being here on earth," says Beverley Henderson. Henderson is the President of Essex County Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, an organization whose goal is to provide planning assistance to funded projects that provide child health and maternal services. The largest coalition of its kind, it is comprised of 70 health agencies, fourteen outreach programs and recently received approval of a \$3 million Healthy Start grant from the federal government. Henderson also serves as Executive Director of Essex Comprehensive, a comprehensive healthcare center.



Dana Cunningham

Dana Cunningham's work has enabled her to be both a crusader in finding new ways to save lives and for equality in the workplace. Dana is a Research Scientist for Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., and a member of the HELPP (Hoechst Employees Linking People and Progress), a minority-based group that provides networking opportunities for the company's African-American employees. Dana is a former member of the Life Science Group's Equality Committee at HMR, where her responsibility was to help the organization ensure that employees had a work-environment that promoted corporate equality and quality values.



Ronald E. West

Civic and community-minded, Ronald West has contributed to the building of a state-of-the-art 32,000 square foot health care facility. West, who serves as the Chairperson of the Board of the Plainfield Health Center, is a member of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Board of Governors and Chairperson of the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program Community Advisory Board. Involved in several civic and community organizations, he is also the Manager of Telecommunications and Office Automation for Shearman & Sterling. He contributed to the design of a technical infrastructure that helped the company's business process and employee productivity. In his current position, he is responsible for the planning, budgeting and worldwide management of the voice, data, image, messaging and office automation services of the company.

The Minority Business Journal of New Jersey

Highlighting New Jersey & New York's Minority Business leaders since 1987

The **MINORITY BUSINESS JOURNAL OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK (MBJNJ/NY)**, a monthly publication, focuses on minority business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. **MBJ** regularly features the accomplishments of minority businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses.

MBJ offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. Each month, **MBJ** also contains a special section on a topic of interest to minority entrepreneurs.

MBJ provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority business communities.

CORPORATE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Not all companies have a direct stake in central cities, even in the cities near which they are located. However, all have a stake in the nation's broader economic and social health. Alarmed by the threat to social order, the injustice and the nation's distressed inner cities business leaders should be among the nation's most vocal advocates and active participants in urban community building.

-statement by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee of Economic Development

This category represents those persons who through their corporate position or involvement demonstrate the highest social responsibility in the communities in which they are located or do business.



Dennis Baldassari

Dennis Baldassari, President and Chief Operating Officer of the General Public Utilities Corporation, has continually supported diversity in education and mentoring efforts with high school students. He has broadened GPU's and specifically JCP&L's support in the Urban Suburban Conference Leadership Program and the diversity program. His leadership in the Leadership Circle Program has allowed for participation of thirteen other companies to help support the spread of diversity in education within high schools. He is also a supporter in mentoring at Dover, Asbury Park, and Morristown High Schools. Mr. Baldassari is a member of the New Jersey Business-Higher Education Forum.



Dorinda Jenkins-Glover

Dorinda Jenkins-Glover is a prominent member of New Jersey business and community service organizations. She has served on the advisory board of the Community Agencies Corporation, and has received the 1995-1996 Past Chairperson's Award of the Union County Urban League and the 1992 Twin Program Tribute Award from the Princeton Area YWCA. Since last year, she served as Marketing Director of Summit Bank, overseeing the bank's advertising, marketing and communication strategy. Dorinda has been instrumental in the progress and development of a number of employees within the company.



Dale Caldwell

As Management Consultant at the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, Dale Caldwell focuses on increasing revenue for school districts, public hospitals, counties and states. During his tenure with the company, Dale has helped establish the Deloitte & Touche LLP Association of Black and Latino Employees (ABLE). The organization has mentored Black and Latino Employees, worked with the United Way to feed over 300 people in five countries and collected over \$20,000 worth of clothes which were donated to Harmony House in Newark and the YMCA in Plainfield.



Joseph Karas

Joseph Karas, a native of Cairo, Egypt, has given of his services to the community for nearly 20 years. Joe serves as AT&T's Vice President, Brand Management Development and Innovation. He is responsible for the marketing, service delivery, customer satisfaction and profitability of AT&T residential and small business customers in the communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Prior to obtaining that post, Joe served as the Director of the Communications Services Group, where he designed and led executive leadership strategy forums for corporate direction and development.

Dale is the founder of Operation Education Incorporated (OEI), an organization responsible for the international "Take Your Community to Work Day" which encourages students in poor areas to learn the inner workings of business and the professions.



Toni Fay

Toni Fay has made an indelible mark at Time Warner, Inc. She is the company's first Black female corporate officer. As Vice President of Community Relations, Toni is responsible for Time Warner's public and social responsibility activities. The recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Award, Fay has also developed key projects for Warner. She created "Time to Read," the largest corporate-sponsored literacy program in the nation which instructs over 100,000 youth and adults; Songs of My People, the international exhibition; and an exhibition designed to promote

discussions about diversity titled "It's US: A Celebration of Who We Are in America." In addition, Toni was appointed, by President Clinton, to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.



John H. Maddocks

Encouraged by an obligation to aid urban residents in obtaining job opportunities, quality education and affordable housing, John H. Maddocks is at the forefront of community involvement. He is responsible for Renaissance Newark, a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the economic revitalization of Newark's downtown business district. He is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation. Maddocks has won many awards for his community service, including the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. John Maddocks is the Vice President of Public Affairs for Public Service Electric & Gas. He oversees the company's corporate contributions, governmental relationships and community affairs. His civic duties include a post as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the NJ State Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Newark Watershed Conservation.



Patricia A. Fields

Patricia A. Fields dedicates her time to helping guide the lives of teenage parents. She organized the Volunteer component of the Plainfield Teen Parenting Program, which consists of 40 corporate and community volunteers, and serves as its director of volunteer activities. The program has a 98% graduation rate among all of the seniors who have participated. Pat is also President of School Based Youth Services, and assisted in the creation and served as coordinator of the annual "A Festival for Kids", which celebrates the lives of children from birth to 10 years old. Patricia works as the Human Resources Manager for Lucent Technologies.



Cynthia J. Moore

Cynthia Moore, Regional Manager, Corporate Affairs for Anheuser Busch is known for her professional and personable demeanor, a trait that serves her well as the director of Anheuser Busch Companies' Community Affairs Initiatives. Born in Newark, Cynthia has underwritten and supported non-profit organizations by helping the beverage company give back to the community that supports it. Prior to joining Anheuser Busch, she spent 10 years with Seagram, working in various areas within the human resources department. Moore is the driving force behind such affairs as the

Congressional Black Caucus Weekend and the New Jersey Black Issues Convention in Newark. She also serves as a youth mentor for three young ladies who are "destined for great things." She has received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Montclair State College.

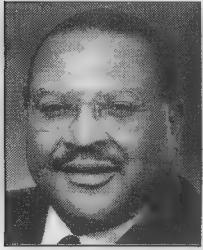
Corporate Community Involvement (Continued)

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis



Garret Nieuwenhuis is the Senior Vice President for Community Development for Valley National Bank. Garret's position requires that he oversee the bank's responsiveness to the social and economic needs of various communities. He also acts as Valley National's Community Reinvestment officer, responsible for overseeing the bank's lending, service and investment activities. He is most proud of being able to promote Valley National as an organization with a strong sense of "community." He is proud of the positive results he has seen within the communities from Valley National's

various programs. He is on several committees on the Eastern Christian School Association, Vice President of Board of Directors of the Paterson Habitat for Humanity, a Board member of New Community Development Loan Corporation in Newark, and a First Vice President of the Housing Partnership of Morris County.



John R. Smith

John R. Smith, Manager of Strategic Public Affairs Regulatory, has dedicated himself to the development of youth. For six years, Smith has successfully run a recreation program for more than 200 boys and girls between the ages of 8-15. Smith, who has been an employee at PSE&G for more than 29 years, has contributed his time and efforts to more than 30 civic, education and professional non-profit organizations. He is also responsible for helping establish the NJ Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.



William Wolverton

William Wolverton has recently been named Summit Bank's executive vice president and director of branch banking, and it is in this position that he continues his contribution to the urban community. In the past, Wolverton has helped in the design and development of loans in urban areas and created an urban banking firm to include all groups. He is responsible for managing Summit banks in six regions throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also serves as a trustee for public radio station WBGO in Newark, and director of the non-profit organization Inroads, whose mission it is to prepare minority students for positions in corporate America. William Wolverton has served as director of the Bergen County Boy Scouts of America.

CIVIL RIGHTS

"If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

This category represents service to the community in the promotion, protection, and advancement of those fundamental human rights protected by the United States Constitution and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.



John Robertson

For more than twenty years, John Robertson has been of service to the New Jersey community. He is responsible for endowing a \$10,000 scholarship at Rahway High School to benefit an underprivileged student each year, and has been a longtime and active participant in the NAACP. Since the late 70s, Robertson has served a two-year term as first vice-president in the local branch which was later followed by a ten-year term as president. Active in the NAACP's Stay in School Program, he also serves on the committee on AIDS and has chaired the State Prison Branch program. Robertson

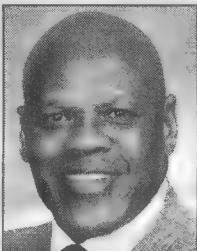
also gives of his time and effort as chairman, board member and funding committee member of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Greater New York. Mr. Robertson is an independent consultant who helps individuals secure home mortgage and small business loans.

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

"Our elevation must be the result of self-efforts and work of our own hands. No other human power can accomplish it. If we but determine it shall be so, it will be so."

-Martin R. Delany

This category represents the individual who has engaged minds through their creativity and athletic capability. By striving to be the "best of the best," these individuals have inspired others to use limits as mere benchmarks for excellence.



Milt Campbell

Milt Campbell changed the course of Olympic history by becoming the first black man ever to win a medal in the Olympic Decathlon. In 1952, Campbell won the Silver medal and four years later took home the Gold medal for the same event. Campbell, who says he is inspired by the knowledge that we have the ability to overcome any obstacle that is placed before us, is now a Professional Speaker for his own company, Milt Campbell Enterprises. He gives motivational and personal development presentations to corporate employees and students at schools across the country.



James Mtume

For more than twenty years, Grammy Award-winning songwriter, musician, producer James Mtume created and defined 70s and 80s soul. Today's music listeners can easily recognize the songs he has written, as many of them have become classics etched into the psyche of modern culture. Mtume penned classic hits for Roberta Flack ("The Closer I Get To You"), Stephanie Mills ("Never Knew Love Like This Before"), Phyllis Hyman ("You Know How To Love Me") and his own band, MTUME ("Juicyfruit"). Mtume is presently working as the only Black composer for a dramatic series, for

the show New York Undercover. Mtume, who also co-hosts the weekly radio talk show "Open Line" on WRKS-FM with Bob Slade, is currently working on projects set for release on his label, Reel to Real Records (MCA). He lists his years spent as a percussionist with Miles Davis as one of his greatest career accomplishments.

Minority Business-To-Business Directory

Linking Minority Businesses to the Marketplace

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities.

The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business.

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and women-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is another tool for the growth and expansion of minority entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion, there must be for our people economic independence."

Booker T. Washington

Our great leaders remind us of our legacy, our promise to lift our people up to their rightful place as leaders, as people who made a difference. In today's world we recognize that economic parity must serve as a plank in the platform on which change shall be built. This category honors the individuals whose work has a primary impact on creating that platform. Their tireless work continues to enhance the distribution, production, and consumption of goods and services in our urban communities. These unsung heroes are creating jobs, promoting growth, and engineering the greater distribution of economic resources in the community.



Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett

Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett, founder of the Kentucky Avenue Renaissance Festival, has spearheaded an annual event that has attracted interest and investment prospects from the public sector. According to Bonitto-Doggett, the festival, which is now in its sixth year, was "created for the purpose of celebrating and recreating the excitement of a cultural era historically significant to the African-American community." Her efforts have resulted in commitments by major companies to invest in the economic, social and cultural development of the Atlantic City area. Mrs. Bonitto-Doggett is the Deputy Director of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



Guy McCombs

Through his live, radio talk program, Guy McCombs assists callers with their questions and concerns about starting and maintaining their small, woman and minority-owned businesses. The show, which airs on NJN-FM is titled The Business Plan and helps these business owners plan their strategies and goals toward economic empowerment. McCombs has an impressive twenty years in the communications and market research fields and is the President & CEO of THIRD POWER Market, Development, Inc., the largest minority-owned firm of its kind in the northeast. He is also a continual contributor to cultural development through his work with the media. Currently, Dr. McCombs is the public relations Community Counsel for the NJPAC. He is also a member of the Newark Public Schools Capital Projects Control Board and the Treasurer of the Independence School of Newark.



J. Frederick Canady

J. Frederick Canady, Director of the Pepsi-Cola company's Minority Business Development Program, has been instrumental in the development and promotion of minority-owned businesses. Since he assumed the responsibility of directing Pepsi-Cola Company's minority business development (MBE) program in 1994, Frederick has fostered a number of business partnerships with minority vendors. Canady, who says he appreciates the opportunity to give other persons of color a chance to grow in business, has been instrumental in the growth of African-American, Asian and Latino business. He has also helped increase the monies Pepsi-Cola spends with minority vendors.



Preston D. Pinkett III

Preston D. Pinkett has received recognition and accolades for his dedication to economic and community development. A recipient of Proclamations from Paterson and Newark for his contributions to urban development, Mr. Pinkett has also excelled in his work at PNC Bank. As the bank's Senior Vice President, he is responsible for statewide management of community and economic development. Prior to this position, Pinkett was the Senior Planner of the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, and currently serves on many community boards, including on the Camden Trust Foundation and the New Jersey Community Loan Fund. Preston serves as Chairman of the New Jersey Bankers Association Community Reinvestment Committee and is a board member of the New Jersey Community Loan Fund and the Camden Trust Foundation. Preston D. Pinkett is a graduate of Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations.



Frank J. Gramo

Frank Gramo says that by assisting in the development of minority business, he is contributing to his belief in diversity. Gramo, who is a Purchasing Manager for Bell Atlantic, is responsible for the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program. In conjunction with his Bell Atlantic contracting team, the program has awarded \$30 million dollars to women-owned companies. Over the past five years, Gramo's contracting team has also signed and awarded sixty-two contracts, totaling \$32.4 million, with minority firms. Frank Gramo is a member of the Board of Directors for the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council.



Joseph Yeoman

Joseph Yeoman believes that a strong community benefits everyone. As President/Executive Officer of the Teamsters Local #331, he participates in and supports activities for union members, their families and the community. All proceeds from the organization's activities - such as an annual scholarship talent show, flea markets, silent auctions and multi-cultural festivals, - are distributed throughout the community in the form of clothing, toys, holiday food baskets and are also used to underwrite community programs. A man of several firsts, Yeoman is the first African-American President of the Teamsters Local 331 and was the first African-American President of the Local 115 in Philadelphia.



Larry J. Jenkins

During his 17 years in corporate America, Larry J. Jenkins, has been instrumental in the relationship between the corporation and the community it serves. Jenkins has been appointed by Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer to the Enterprise Initiative Coordinating Committee and has participated in the Mayor's Mentoring Program. As Vice President and Manager for CoreStates Bank, he manages the bank's Community Business Lending Group, and is responsible for the management and growth of the community business banking portfolio in the state. Larry also unselfishly gives of his time to work with organizations such as the George Washington Council Boy Scouts of America.

POLITICS, LAW, & GOVERNMENT

"A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess."

A. Philip Randolph

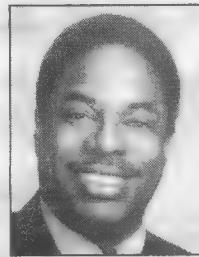
This category highlights those people who have made, and continue to make, a positive difference in the creation of governmental policy, the establishment and administration of justice, and the maintenance of a democratic society.



Cardell Cooper

Cardell Cooper is the youngest person ever elected to serve as Mayor of the city of East Orange. Under his leadership, the city has seen a resurgence of civic pride and community involvement. East Orange has also become nationally recognized for its initiatives to develop public and private partnerships with social services, local businesses and community groups. In 1992, the city received two national awards from the United States Conference of Mayors for its efforts in summer employment and activities for youth. Cooper now serves on the advisory board of the United

States Conference of Mayors and was the former chair of its Health and Human Services Committee. Mr. Cooper was recently nominated the third-highest ranking official in the US Environmental Protection Agency.



Jerome C. Harris

As the Executive Director of the Institute for Urban and Public Policy at Rowan University, Jerome Harris has been responsible for the development of programs and services designed to impact the civic, economic, and social problems of the region. His family, as well as notable figures such as Ida B. Wells, Paul Robeson, and Dr. Samuel Proctor have been his inspiration in his more than twenty years of professional experience in the public sector. Harris was the founding President of the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, Co-Founder of the NJ Black Issues Convention, and former Assistant State Treasurer in New Jersey.



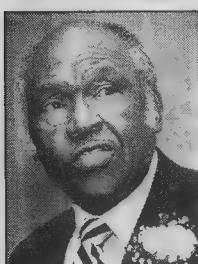
Mildred C. Crump

"I am guided by the needs of the community," says Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump. The first African-American woman elected to the Newark Municipal Council, Crump also says that as a legislator, she works to develop laws to address those needs. Mildred was also the "first" African-American Braille teacher to work in the city of Detroit. In addition to her council duties, Mildred hosts the television program "Straight Talk with Mildred Crump." In civic capacities, Crump serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Newark and the Executive Board of the Newark Branch of the NAACP. She is also affiliated with the National Rainbow Coalition, International Black Women's Congress, and the World Gospel Musical Association.



Honorable Janet Haynes

As Hudson County Clerk, the Honorable Janet Haynes is the highest ranking African-American official in the history of Hudson County, and the only African-American County Clerk to serve as a County Clerk in the State of New Jersey. Haynes brings to her post, 25 years of experience as an administrator in both the public and private sector. A founding member of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Haynes is also known for her work with Action for Sickle Cell Anemia, the Hudson County Urban League and a number of public and private organizations. Of her accomplishments thus far, Haynes says, "I have tried to be a role model and train young African-American professionals to be at the top of their careers and to be competent and competitive in the field of business."



Arthur A. Fletcher

Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher is affectionately known as "the father of the affirmative action enforcement movement," the federal government's initiative that helped change America's employment and education practices. In his 25 years on the national scene, Dr. Fletcher has served as assistant Secretary of Labor, a UN Delegate, the Deputy of Urban Affairs Advisor to President Gerald R. Ford, and Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund. He is currently President of Fletcher's Learning Systems Inc. In 1995, he was selected by the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging as the recipient of its Living Legacy Award. Fletcher currently

owns and manages Fletcher's Learning Systems, Inc. which specializes in creating, producing and marketing audio and video cassette training products, work books and training manuals.



Barbara L. Hudgins

Atlantic City Council Member-At-Large Barbara L. Hudgins has brought growth and stability to her city, passing legislation that ensures city funds are spent appropriately. Hudgins, who passed legislation to create 20,000 new jobs for Atlantic City, is also responsible for the establishment of an Atlantic City Advisory Banking Committee. Her legislation will also provide job training to thousands of individuals who were previously unemployed or unemployable. Councilwoman Hudgins, who was once voted Teacher of the Year, was previously a math teacher for 30 years who inspired and encouraged African-American youth. She is currently serving her second term as Councilwoman.



Nia H. Gill

In the more than 20 years that Assembly Democratic Whip Nia Gill has been involved in government, she has championed health and educational issues. As a representative of the 27th legislative district, and having served on the legislature's Education Funding task force, Gill has lobbied on behalf of higher education and adequate funding. She has also worked to broaden and clarify the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1990, to include stalking as domestic violence and a check-off for taxpayers to make voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns for Domestic Violence Shelters. A bill she sponsored that was signed into law in 1995 calls for health insurers to provide benefits that allow \$3,000 income tax deduction for families providing home care for elderly relatives.



Maxine James

Maxine James, the first African-American woman to become a member of the Newark Jaycees - a national service organization, is the Administrative Assistant/Chief of Staff to Congressman Donald Payne. Ms. James is responsible for the operation of a congressional office with eighteen employees, three sites and a budget of \$974,000. James, who says she works to benefit her immediate community as well as the community-at-large, was born and raised in Newark's Central Ward. During her tenure as Chair of Newark Emergency Services for Families, she helped establish the Emergency Residence Program for families and individuals in need of shelter.

Politics, Law & Government (Continued)



Gualberto Medina

Gualberto Medina is the first Hispanic Commissioner of the Department of Commerce & Economic Development. He is responsible for revitalizing the state's urban core in order to create jobs in New Jersey. Medina, who has expanded Urban Enterprise Zone programs, instituted set-aside regulations to level the playing field. As a councilman in Camden, he sponsored the first-ever affirmative action on the contracting ordinance in the city. Earlier in his career, he worked in Eastern Pennsylvania's Federal District Court, represented HUD in the Northeast US, and worked for and consulted with various economic and business development organizations promoting major economic/commercial development projects in Philadelphia. Medina says it is his Hispanic roots that inspire him to make contributions to improve the quality of life for African-Americans, Hispanics, and all New Jerseyans.



Herbert Tate

Herbert Tate can be credited with many 'firsts' throughout the course of his career. He was the first African-American appointed to the positions of Assistant Administrator to the Environmental Protection Agency for Enforcement, Essex County Prosecutor, and President/Commissioner of the Board of Public Utilities. At present, Mr. Tate is the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. His current position requires that he sit as the head of a three commission body that regulates the electric, gas, telephone, cable and water utilities in the State of New Jersey. He is most proud of taking the electric, gas and telecommunications industries into competitive markets breaking the cycle of 80 years of rate regulation. Mr. Tate is also the Chairman of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan Commission, which sets energy policy for the State of New Jersey.



Michael Mordaga

Children play a vital role in the life of Detective Lt. Michael J. Mordaga. As the founder and president of the Police Athletic League of Bergen County, he devotes 20 hours each week to run programs that provide recreational, social and educational activities for children. Over the past fifteen years, the PAL organization has helped hundreds of minority children with anti-drug efforts and job placement. Three years ago, Mordaga started a youth boxing program where nearly 200 community kids go to vent their frustration in the gym or in the ring, as opposed to the street. As a

Hackensack Police officer, he has been involved with thousands of criminal arrests and received over 130 commendations making him the most decorated police officer in Bergen County. Detective Mordaga believes that in order to make a difference we all must move in the same direction.



James E. Young, Jr.

The Teaneck Municipal Court is presided by Judge James Young. Judge Young, who has been a champion for justice for 18 years and who has given of himself as a teacher and mentor for more than 29, is responsible for the court's administration and operation. As a child, Young's parents taught him the importance of community involvement and the necessity of working to help others. It is as a judge and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church that he is able to do just that. Judge Young is also an instructor at Berkeley College and the Bergen County Police Academy, as well as a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the NAACP.



Patricia Perkins-Auguste

Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste was the first African-American woman elected in a primary election in the city of Elizabeth's 327 year history. Now serving her second term, she has set the precedence of being the only African-American female or male to be elected for two consecutive council terms. During her first term, Perkins-Auguste was instrumental in passing resolutions for the Million Man March by acquiring grant monies for several non-profit organizations to benefit HIV/AIDS victims and to conduct youth programs. Perkins-Auguste, who is also involved in several community and non-profit groups, serves on the Steering Committee for the African-American Political Alliance.



Dr. Sandra Ann Robinson

Imagine having your work as an attorney, teacher, and lecturer place you in the company of such notables as Fannie Lou Hamer, Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali, and others. That has often happened to Dr. Sandra Robinson, who has spent her entire career contributing to the betterment of society. Dr. Robinson holds the distinction of becoming the first Black female Deputy Mayor in the City of Hackensack and the first Black female Assistant County Counsel in Bergen County New Jersey. Believing that dreams come true when another minority person can receive

aid to go to school or purchase a home, she successfully obtained Community Development Block Grant funds for more than \$3 million, which went to complete educational, housing, and cultural programs in New Jersey communities. She has received many awards, such as the NJEA Human Rights Award, and Sojourner Truth Award.

The City News Family of Publications

City News, weekly

*The Minority
Business Journal
of New Jersey and
New York, monthly*

*The Minority
Business-To-
Business Directory,
annually*

and a
cousin...

YES Magazine—
**Youth Excited
about Success**



Craig Stanley

State Assemblyman Craig Stanley's work with youth is well noted. He credits the help he received as a black child in the projects with inspiring him to make a difference with today's children. As State Assemblyman, Stanley is the first African-American to represent the 28th legislative district. His work involves reviewing and proposing legislation that might effect his district and the state of New Jersey. He sits on the Education Committee as an advocate for public education, calling for school funding reform, and the improvement to education in urban schools. Assemblyman Stanley also works with inner city high school children with the New Jersey Black Achievers Program, finding mentors from corporate America to work with them. He also volunteers with high school students, and teaches them about government and citizenship through the NJ YMCA Youth & Government program.

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for home delivery**

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

I had to make my own living and my own opportunity...Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come; you have to get up and make them.

Madame C.J. Walker, 1914

The entrepreneurs and business owners honored this evening, are working to harness the powerful resources of commerce and industry which we currently support as consumers participating in establishing businesses and business organizations that foster economic and professional growth.



Howard Banks

Howard Banks, a professional cosmetologist, is the first male president of the Modern Beauticians Association - a position he has held for two years. Throughout his career, Mr. Banks has also helped educate many individuals in the beauty/cosmetology industry. As a result, more than 40 salons have opened because of his guidance and input. According to Howard, his motivation is to make sure that people of color look as good as any other group. In the field of cosmetology, he is considered a success in that regard. Mr. Banks says he is always there to help his fellow man and credits the Lord as being his strength and help.



William McCoy

A devoted community service provider who owns and operates four McDonald's restaurants in Elizabeth and Newark, William McCoy employs a staff of 200. Many of those employees are young people in search of summer and permanent employment. Mr. McCoy also works with several civic, community and business organizations. On occasion, he and his restaurant managers have visited University High School and Miller Street School to advise students on career opportunities and choices. And at one time, Mr. McCoy ran attendance incentive programs in 12 schools in Newark and

3 in Elizabeth. He is also the founder of the Community Action for Human Services, Inc., has served on the board of directors of the Newark YMCA and as Chairman of Mayor Sharpe James Affirmative Action Review Council.

Gregory Williams

Teaching young people the tools of the business trade and assisting in the growth of African-American business is important to Gregory Williams. For the past three years, he has volunteered to work with Granville Academy students (age 14-18), teaching them key business terms and practices. Mr. Williams is also actively affiliated with the NAACP, the Black Data Processing Associates, and the Mercer County Black Business Association, where he is also president. In addition, Williams represents the Mercer County Black Business Association in Trenton's Network of Business Associations and serves as facilitator for the Economic Development Authority's Entrepreneurial Training Institute. Gregory Williams is the President of G.W. Enterprises.

EDUCATION

"Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it, and make it better...."

-Carter G. Woodson

Knowledge is power. In a world which is producing some of the most advanced machines and information resources, our children are not keeping the pace with the demand to harness these resources. We face a challenge to prepare our children to become not just the members, but the leaders, of tomorrow's society. This category highlights those individuals who are facing that challenge head-on, whose initiatives and programs have made a significant impact on the training, guidance, teaching, instruction, and positive cognitive development of youth in urban communities.



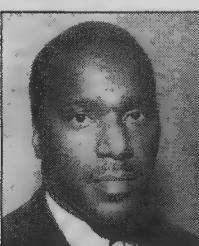
Dr. Thomas H. Brown

Dr. Thomas H. Brown is at the forefront of higher education. In July of 1990, he became President of Union County College - the oldest community college in the state of New Jersey. The school's outstanding faculty and academic programs are recognized through 80 articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities. Under his direction, the Union County college opened a new Elizabeth campus, a new Plainfield campus, and a new Commons building on the college's Cranford campus. Dr. Brown, who earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from New York University, has written articles that have appeared in The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress, The Lincoln Herald and Americas.



Donna Carter-Butler

If you watch the annual Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Entertainment Special benefiting the United Negro College Fund, and enjoy the program and its accomplishments, Donna Carter-Butler is among the first people to thank. Donna is the Executive Producer of the special and the Area Development Director for the College Fund/UNCF. In those capacities, she is responsible for raising \$3.3 million dollars every year to support the 40 UNCF Institutions. Donna is also responsible for UNCF's Educational Symposium and College Fair, exposing over 4,000 students to recruiters from those institutions. Her company, A'(u)ngie Productions, develops media projects that address and provide opportunities for youth to express themselves.



Alfred Bundy

Alfred Bundy, Founder and President of Bundy Productions, is the Director of Project 2000. Based at Seton Hall University, the program exposes elementary school students to positive male role models. Bundy at one time directed the school's Pre-Med Pre-Dent Plus Program and established the Reynolds Burch Scholarship Fund for students excelling in Seton Hall's medical curriculum. He was the first minority to serve on Essex County's Board of Education and now serves as the Chairman for cultural programming for the Cable Television Network of New Jersey. Alfred Bundy has more than 17 years experience in the fields of video production and public relations.



Joe Clark

Many remember Joe Clark as the subject of the film *Lean On Me*. But more important are the life accomplishments that led to the making of the film. Clark, a former Principal of Paterson's East Side High School, used his unique approach to discipline and education to change the troubled school into a "model" institution. Currently, Joe Clark is the Director of the Essex County Youth House, a juvenile detention center in Newark. Joe Clark's dedication to youth embodies a commitment to education and the desire to instill positive images and aspirations. Of his current work, he says, "I will stay until I have brought about change. I can't think of anything more noble." Joe Clark is also the author of the book *Laying Down the Law*.

Education (Continued)



Vera King Farris

Dr. Vera King Farris has served as President of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for fourteen years. Prior to coming to Stockton, she served as Academic Vice President at Kean College; Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, State University of New York-Brockport; and Dean - State University of New York, Stony Brook. Dr. Farris, who has received honorary doctorates from various institutions, has been cited in Who's Who in American Education. She has had an illustrious career in the field of education and is the recipient of many awards for her community, educational, and civic service. Dr. Farris is a member of the Task Force on Educational Assessment and Monitoring and the Transfer Education Commission.



Toni Veasy

Realizing the importance of proper guidance of our young, Toni Veasy, Guidance Counselor at the Asbury Park Board of Education, says "As a past teacher of Mathematics and as a guidance counselor, I am inspired by the success of so many of my students." In addition to her work at the Board of Ed, Toni is a Key Club Advisor, a mentor in the Partnership for Success Mentor Program and a member of the Jersey Central Power and Light Company Educational Advisory Committee. She is also a Brookdale Community College Learning Assistant for Mathematics. Toni Veasy holds a

Bachelors of Science - Mathematics from Rust College and a Masters of Science - Student Personnel Services from Kean College. She has been a recipient of the Charles D. Moody Award from the NJ Alliance of Black School Educators.



Dr. Beverly Hall

Dr. Beverly Hall has had a long-standing career in education. She is currently the State District Superintendent of Newark Public Schools, and, as such, is responsible for the leadership of the largest public school district in the state of New Jersey. The district includes 83 schools, 45,805 students, and over 8,073 staff members. Prior to her appointment as District Superintendent, she worked as the Deputy Chancellor for Instruction of the New York City public school system. She is proud of her selection for top educational leadership positions in two major urban centers.



Dr. Donald Warner

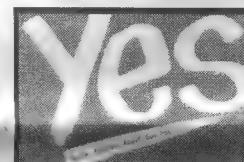
As Chief School Administrator of Red Bank Regional High School, Dr. Donald Warner supervises a staff of more than 175 teachers. Red Bank High School provides educational services to over 1000 students. Some of the school's programs include technology and college preparatory courses. Warner, who is a native of Pennsylvania, earned his Doctor of Education Degree at the Pennsylvania State University, instituted a "homework contract" between student, parent and the school and started a performing arts program. He is a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of

Brookdale Community College, a member of the Board of Trustees of Monmouth Medical Center, and President of the Groff Foundation and Whitman Foundation.



Dr. Larry Leverett

Dr. Larry Leverett has an extensive background in school reform. As Superintendent of Schools in Plainfield New Jersey, he brings a wealth of experience to Plainfield students. Leverett, who supervises a district that serves more than 7,000 students, is involved in the district's multi-year reform program and has taught curriculum at the secondary level. He has also worked as Superintendent in the Englewood School system. Leverett has obtained a reputation as a creative leader who encourages collaboration and acceptance of responsibility among other educators. Larry Leverett has served as a consultant with school districts across the country.



YES, Youth Excited About Success, is the only magazine to focus on youth achievers in urban schools. Our distinctive journalistic style covers the scholastic and personal achievements of students nationwide, as well as offers useful information and resources to help young people succeed both in and out of the classroom.

*a positive
magazine for
urban teens who
want to succeed*



YES makes sense of the complex issues facing teens today. Our reporting focuses on a wide range of topics including tips on college and career, articles on health and fitness and news about the environment. YES educates and entertains by introducing teens to each other, heavily stressing peer to peer advice as a motivational tool. We also include those faces and personalities youth look up to, urging celebrity role models who have already tasted success to pass on tips to those up and coming.

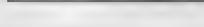
YES attracts the brightest and most motivated teenagers in urban centers nationwide with the magazine's hip, colorful format. These are young people who want to know what's going on and what's up. They're interested in their own cities and they're looking around to see who's achieving in other parts of the country, too. Our readers are excited about success and are working hard to make it happen.

Parents support YES because they believe in their children's abilities and know we do, too. Parents realize our reporting is designed to make young people better students, as well as better people in the community.

Teachers and administrators support YES because it promotes achievement, positive behavior and motivation to succeed.



**Our editorial mandate and philosophy is as distinctive as it is basic:
Place an emphasis on what's right with kids
and what can help them to succeed.**



Trish Morris-Yamba

The Newark Day Center is a 194 year old multi-faceted social agency. Trish Morris-Yamba, Director of the center, is responsible for the running of the oldest social service agency in New Jersey and the third oldest in the nation. It is home to the Fresh Air Fund, which offers summer camp programs to inner city youth, as well as programs such as a child care center, training for parents, and a senior center. Trish, who is also the former host/producer of Channel 68's Black Spectrum, has been active in community and civic affairs for over three decades. Trish is listed in a number of Who's Who volumes and has received many awards for her work in the community.



Dr. Samuel D. Proctor

Dr. Samuel Proctor has spent five decades as a pastor, teacher, lecturer, and author. He is Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University and Pastor Emeritus of New York's Abyssinian Baptist Church. Dr. Proctor has lectured and studied in countries around the globe and has written several books, including The Young Negro in America (1966), Preaching About Crises in the Community (1988), My Moral Odyssey (1989), and with Dr. William Watley, Sermons from the Black Pulpit (1984). Dr. Proctor has served as a member of several governing boards for the United Negro College

Fund, National Urban League, and the Union Theological Seminary of New York. He has served as an associate director of the Peace Corps under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

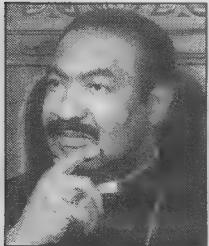
RELIGION

"I can't talk religion to a man with bodily hunger in his eyes"

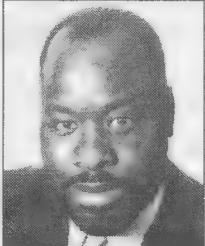
—George Bernard Shaw

Much of the advancement of our people has come from our firm belief in a Power greater than ourselves. The honorees in this category understand all too well the need to serve the body and the spirit through the programs and other activities they have undertaken as leader of their church.

Bishop William T. Cahoon



Georgia native Bishop William Cahoon has been an inspiring figure in church ministry since 1962. Cahoon, along with his wife Carolyn, founded the St. Andrews COGIC in Jersey City. He pastored there for twelve years, assisting in the church's growth and development. Bishop Cahoon is now the Pastor of the House of Prayer, Church of God In Christ in Plainfield, where he has ministered to and counseled congregation members since December of 1986. Bishop Cahoon is also the Executive Secretary of the National Board of Trustees of the Church of God in Christ. In 1993, he began giving of his time and effort to work with the New Garden State Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction as the Jurisdictional Prelate.



Reverend Calvin McKinney

Calvin McKinney, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Garfield, New Jersey has used his ever-expanding ministry to serve and assist people throughout the United States. McKinney, who has also dedicated himself specifically to serving Garfield's religious community and youth as a whole, now serves as the President of the 300,000-member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey, and is the acting Director of the Youth Department, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of the N.B.C., U.S.A., Inc. His civic duties include former service as Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic, Board member of the Bergen County Urban League and Executive Board member of the Garfield/Lodi branch of the NAACP.

Who will be next years 100 Most Influential?

Look for Nomination
forms in City New
starting in September.



Reverend Donald Nichols

As Minister of Plainfield's Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Reverend Donald Nichols says his ministry "leads him to prepare and administer to the congregation through worship, and to provide for their spiritual needs." Nichols, who was ordained a minister in 1977, is a current member of the Concerned Urban Clergy of Plainfield, whose concerns are to address issues affecting the Plainfield community. Reverend Nichols has also served on the Plainfield Human Relations Commission, assuring that the public continues to be well-served. A graduate of Plainfield High School, Reverend Nichols remains an important and constant figure who gives of himself to serve the members of his church and the Plainfield community.



Reverend Charles Thomas

Hundreds of families and skilled craftsmen have been helped by facilities and projects developed by Reverend Charles Thomas. Thomas, pastor of Newark's New Hope Baptist Church since 1968, spearheaded the opening of centers that have refurbished and developed the Newark community. Thomas is responsible for New Hope Day Care Center which provides daily care to hundreds of children, the New Hope Skills Center, and started the Minority Contractors and Craftsmen Trade Association. He also organized the New Hope Development Corporation which spawned "New Hope Village," a 170-family housing complex in Newark. Thomas, who "believes in the need to nourish the mind, body and spirit via education, training skill enhancement and bible study," has given new meaning to community development.



Reverend William D. Watley, Ph.D.

William D. Watley, Pastor of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark, has a congregation of more than 3,025. The church, which has brought in 2,500 new congregation members through its tithing program, has a Feeding program which feeds over 10,000 homeless people each year. Watley, who has been listed in Who's Who in Black America, is on the Executive Committee of Newark Fighting Back and is the Chairperson of Newark Neighborhood, Inc. Reverend Watley, a believer in education, was instrumental in developing and implementing the St. James Preparatory School in Newark. The school focuses on preparing young men and women from Essex and the surrounding counties for leadership in their chosen fields.

MEDIA, ARTS & CULTURE

"There's no idea in the world that is not contained by black life. I could write forever about the black experience in America."

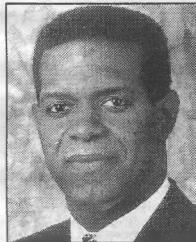
-August Wilson

This category reflects the work of those individuals who have helped to inform us about the black experience, the changing world around us, the diversity of ideas which strengthens us, and the constructs, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors which bind us as a society.



Alonzo Adams

Alonzo Adams' art focuses on the images of African-Americans. Alonzo, who was born in Harlem, NY, but grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey, says his professional goal is to "maintain his integrity in art." A graduate of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Alonzo received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania as the result of a fellowship given him by comedian/actor Bill Cosby and his wife Camille. Alonzo's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at major public and private venues. His work hangs in the private collections of Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, Wesley Snipes and Maya Angelou. Alonzo's personal ambition is to have his art hung in the world's great art museums alongside other revered artists.



Reggie Harris

Five-time Emmy Award winning reporter and news anchor Reggie Harris has covered stories on race relations and homelessness. He has traveled to Somalia to report on American forces and the famine relief effort, and to South Africa, where he covered the presidential election. Harris has also reported locally on Hurricane Andrew, political campaigns and the Atlanta Child murders. A broadcast journalist for 22 years, Reggie Harris is a Governor and Trustee of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and a former member of the Board of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Harris is currently a reporter for WWOR-TV.



Cephas Bowles

"My work involves the presentation of America's greatest cultural gift to the world," says Cephas Bowles. As General Manager of WBGO-FM, Bowles is in charge of the most listened to jazz station in the United States. WBGO is also the first independent broadcast station in the history of the state of New Jersey to raise \$500,000 in one fundraising campaign. Earlier in his career, Bowles was a Board member of the Sun Sounds Radio Reading Services and was co-founder of Blacks in Public Broadcasting. He is now an Executive Committee member of Eastern Public Radio and Finance Committee Chairperson of the Afro-American Radio Network.



Dr. Penelope Lattimer

Dr. Penelope Lattimer has worked for the betterment of urban education for twenty five years. She is responsible for the development of the Gibbons School, located on Rutgers' Douglass College campus, and has served as the school's principal. Some of the elements of the school were eventually transferred into New Brunswick High School. Dr. Lattimer is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the New Brunswick School system. Over the years, she has garnered millions of dollars in grants for special programs for the New Brunswick school district. Most recently, she garnered monies for the School-to-Work program. She currently serves on the national board of the Girl Scouts of America.



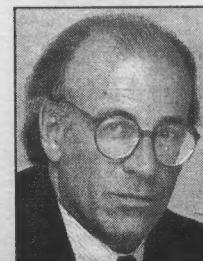
Charles Craig

Even though Charles Craig is often busy with his work as a Judge in the Municipal Court, City of Plainfield, he somehow finds time to pursue creative endeavors. He is currently a board member of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and has been instrumental in presenting "Art in the Atrium." The showcase spotlights artists from New Jersey and other areas. The show, which includes 165 works by 50 artists, is currently exhibited in the Morris County Administration building. Mr. Craig is also a member of the NJ Black Issues Convention, the Garden State Bar Association and the NJ Public Policy Research Institute.



Emily Mann

Emily Mann, Artistic Director of the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, works to present projects by new and established playwrights from a wide variety of backgrounds. Her belief of total inclusion in the American theatre has prompted McCarter to showcase plays highlighting people of all ethnicities. Under her leadership and that of Managing Director Jeffrey Woodward, the McCarter Theatre won a 1994 Tony award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Mann, who wrote and directed the acclaimed play *Having Our Say*, is a member of the Dramatist Guild and was recently elected to serve on its council. She has been honored by the Greater Los Angeles NAACP.



Lawrence P. Goldman

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Lawrence Goldman heads up the design, building and operating of Newark, New Jersey's first major performing arts center. Mr. Goldman lists the building of the \$200 million dollar NJPAC as one of his greatest career accomplishments. The Arts Center, which boasts a 2,700 foot multi-purpose hall, a 500 seat theater, concert hall and dining facility, has brought a wealth of new jobs to the community. Goldman, who is proud of the cultural performances and programs that will be presented at the Center, feels it is time our state and society cease from tearing at our differences and emphasize what we have in common.

THESE PEOPLE GET THE JOB DONE.

A very special thanks to all of the people who made this year's 100 Most Influential event possible. These people demonstrated a true commitment to honoring the vision of the 100 Most Influential event. They devoted time, energy, and resources, so that all who attended would remember this event as one of the most important of its kind in New Jersey. We salute you all, as together we raised the standard of excellence for this year's 100 Most Influential event. Thank you for caring about our communities just as much as we do.

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Awards And Recognition

1986

Devoted and Invaluable Services
Rendered to
Union county
Private Industry Council

1988

DEDICATED SERVICE
Greater Newark
Chamber Of Commerce

1989

Entrepreneur Of The Year
Minority Business Journal
Black New Jersey Magazine
Atlantic City, NJ

1989

Community Service Award
City News / Minority Business Journal
Black United Fund Of New Jersey

1990

Afro American Award For Journalistic
Excellence,
Minority Business Journal
New Jersey United Minority Business
Baintrust Plainfield, NJ

1991

Minority Business Advocate Of The Year
Minority Business Journal
Minority Business Development
Center, Newark, NJ

1991

City News Publishing Company
Outstanding Success In Business
In The African-American Community

Black Fridays

1991

Best News Photo
City News
National Newspaper Publishers'
Association Nassau, Bahamas

1992

Best News Story
City News
National Newspaper Publishers'
Association Baltimore, Maryland

1993

Best Feature Story
City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Los Angeles California

Best Youth Section

City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Los Angeles California

1993

Congressional Record
Hon. Donald M. Payne
U.S. House Of Representatives

1994

Best Editorial
City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Minneapolis, Minnesota

1994

Henry & Jan Johnson

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Service Award
The North Ward Center
Newark, NJ

1995

Public Communication Award
City News Publications
New Jersey State NAACP

1995

Special Congressional Recognition
Meritorious Service
City News Shore Edition
Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

1995

Media Appreciation Award
The City News
The Beta Alpha Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Newark, NJ

1996

Media Appreciation Award
The City News
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Newark, NJ

1996

Frank C. Carr Community Service Award
City News Publishing Co. &
Yes Communications
Inroads Central New Jersey Interns

1996

Henry & Jan Johnson
Community Service Award

26th Annual Equal Opportunity Day
The Urban League Of Union County

1996

Henry C. Johnson
Jan M. Edgerton Johnson
Black Achievers Program
Entrepreneur Of The Year Award
The YMCA's Of Northern
And Central New Jersey

PROCLAMATIONS

State Senator Wynona Lipman,
The New Jersey State Senate
Trenton, NJ

Mayor Sharpe James
City Of Newark

Mayor Cardell Cooper
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CITY NEWS

Let's hold it together.



When people get together, there's nothing they can't do. The 100 individuals honored this evening have demonstrated a commitment to holding things together in New Jersey. Each awardee has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for the families, children and communities of this state. As a company that is dedicated to being involved with the communities we serve, AT&T salutes the 100 Most Influential.

Let's all follow the lead of the 100 Most Influential and take the future of New Jersey in our hands.

